

THE
M E M O I R S
O F
Mrs. Sophia Baddeley,

LATE OF DRURY-LANE THEATRE.

B Y
MRS. ELIZABETH STEELE.

A NEW EDITION.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

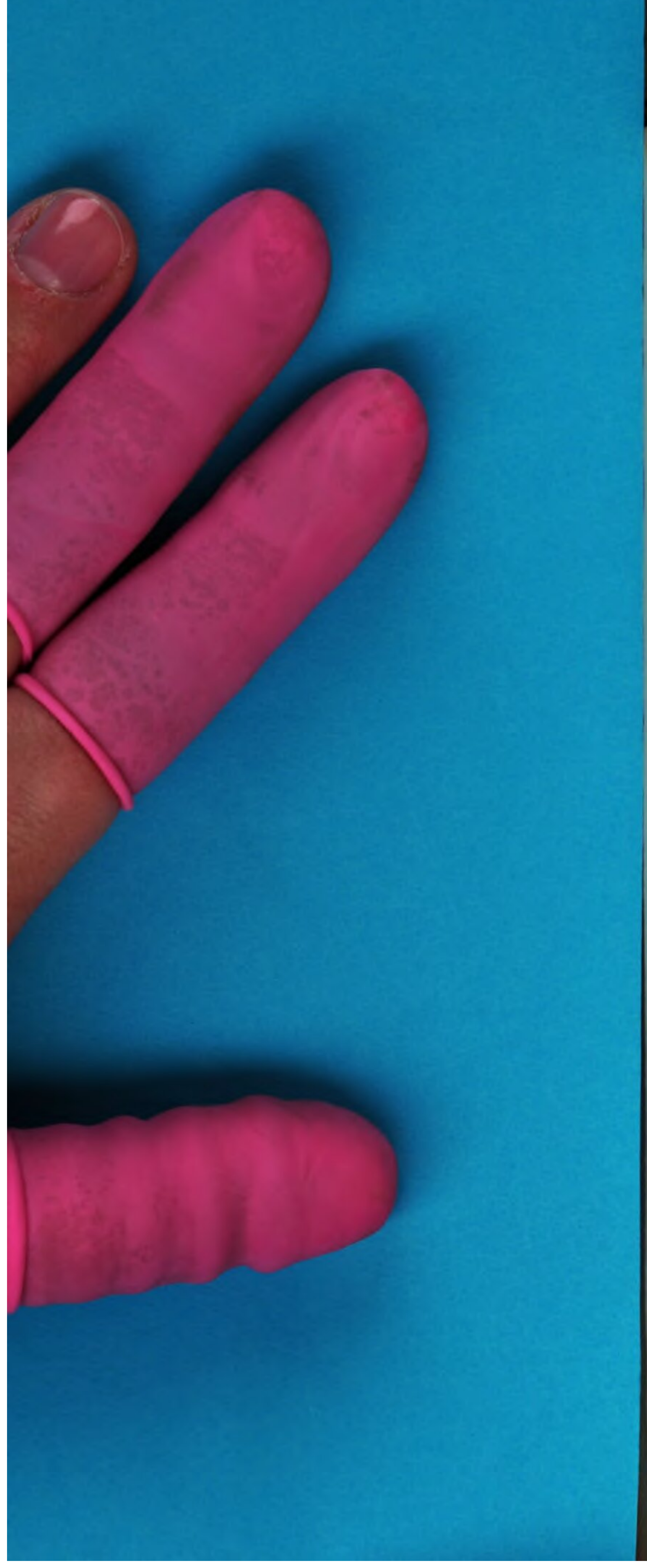
VOL. III.

L O N D O N:

Printed for the AUTHOR,
And sold by all the Booksellers.

M.DCC.LXXXVII.

ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.



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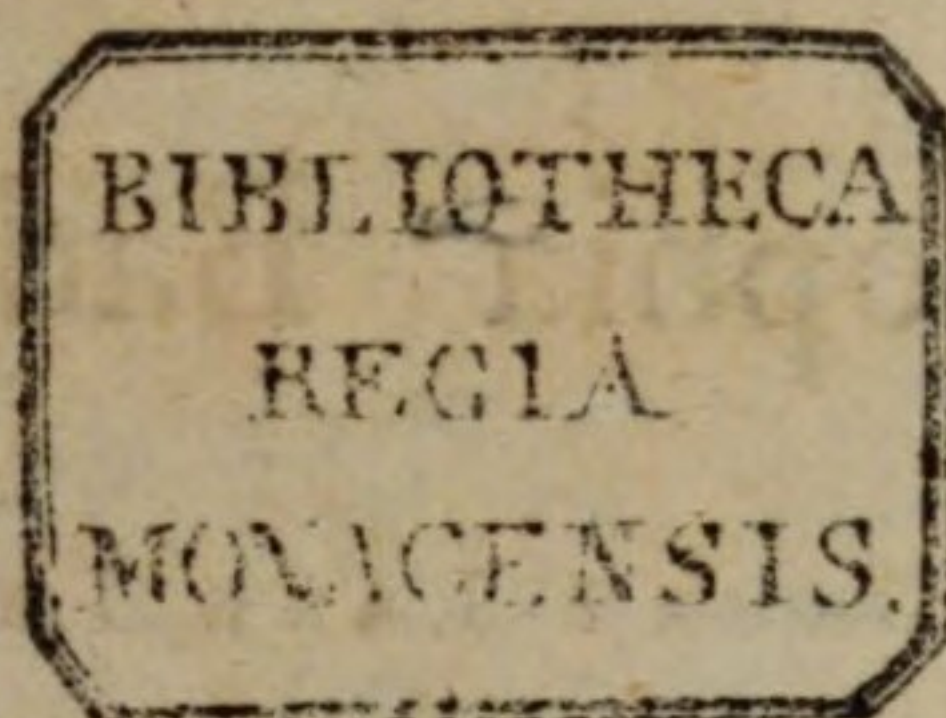
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THE
MEMOIRS

OF

Mrs. Sophia Baddeley.

WE now began to think of the masquerade; and we settled it that Mrs. Baddeley should go in the character of Juliet, and I in that of the Nurse. Her dress, made up upon this occasion, was a rich white sattin, beautifully puckered with a veil of fine gauze, trimmed all round with a broad

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B

rich

rich point lace ; which had a pretty effect. Upon the whole, it was so elegant, that I can venture to say, so beautiful a Juliet was never before seen. I had a full pink sattin petticoat, trimmed with a deep point, a black silk gown tied back, and large pinnars of old point lace on my head, quite in character. The point I borrowed, through the favour of Mr. Garrick. Before we entered the Ball-room, I begged the favour of Mrs. Baddeley not to unmask ; and for some time she obliged me. Our dresses were much admired ; but no sooner had she her mask off, than she attracted the attention of the whole room ; even the ladies that night could not help saying many things

things in her praise. I never took off my mask ; but it was sufficiently known who I was, being in company with her. This was a Ball given by a subscription of the Nobility ; it was splendid and superb to the utmost ; and the attention universally shown us by men of the first rank, in bringing us refreshments, &c. was exceedingly flattering, but absolutely troublesome. At this masquerade none were admitted but by tickets, given away privately by the subscribers. Every person almost of rank and fortune then in town was present ; and, as all vied with each other in splendor of dress, it was the most brilliant assembly of the kind that ever was seen. The consequence of Mrs. Baddeley

being at the masquerade, was, that the next day our knocker was going from morning till evening; but, as we gave orders to be denied to all, we had only their names to read. Among the many that called to pay their respects, were the Dukes of Northumberland, Ancafter, and Queensberry; Lords Harrington, Lincoln, Clanbrazil, Winchelsea, Falmouth, Pigot; Mr. R. Conway, &c. and the news-papers did not omit to mention many others.

Having been engaged to dine this day with Mr. Caswell, and Mrs. Baddeley having, or affecting to have, a sick head-ache, I was obliged to apologize, and excuse ourselves. I say *affecting to*
have;

have; for Dr. Eliot, who attended her that morning, advised her, as she said, to take an airing; and I believe she pretended to be un-well, in order to keep an appointment she had made with Mr. Storer, the night before, at the masquerade, whilst I was dancing with Mr. Conway; for, when we entered Hyde-Park, Mr. Storer came up to the coach, on foot, saying, he had been rambling in the air all the morning. She asked him into the carriage, and he came in, rode once or twice round the Park with us, and on our return home we set him down in Piccadilly.

Mrs. Baddeley never omitted to go to every public place of resort, fre-

quented by the Nobility and people of fashion; and her admission was never opposed but once; of which I will give my reader the particulars.

When the Pantheon was first opened; with concerts, &c. the proprietors wished to exclude every person but those of rank and fortune, and by no means to admit any women of slight character, or any of the players. Mrs. Baddeley being then on the stage, and of some consequence among them, she was, with some others, pointed out as an improper person to be admitted. This getting to the ears of Mr. William Hanger, Mr. R. Conway, and some few more of her friends, they met at

Almack's

Almack's on the occasion; and twenty of the Nobility agreed to attend at the Pantheon, at the door she designed to enter at, determining that nothing should prevent her admittance. They accordingly requested of us to go the first evening it was opened, in chairs; for, as an extra number of constables were ordered to attend, and as chairs were admitted under the portico, it would be better, in case of a riot, than to expose our carriage and horses to the insolence of a mob. I was to get out of my chair first, and Mrs. Baddeley was to follow. When we reached the place, I believe there were fifty gentlemen, in waiting, ready to protect us, with swords by their sides; and when I
got

got out, I passed the constables uninterrupted; but as soon as Mrs. Baddeley got out of her chair, all the constables staves were crossed; and, pulling off their hats, they, with their civility, said, their orders were to admit no players. At this instant, every gentleman there present, the greatest part of whom were noblemen, drew their swords, and declared, one and all, that, if they did not instantly make way, and let her pass, they would run them through. Way was immediately made, and Mrs. Baddeley and I were handed in without any interruption. But the matter ended not here; for the gentlemen would not sheathe their swords, nor suffer the music to play, till the Managers came
to,

to ask Mrs. Baddeley's pardon for the insult shown her. The ladies then began to inquire into the cause of this disturbance; and the Duchefs of Argyle, now Duchefs of Hamilton, came forward, and was pleased to fay, ſhe was much ſurprifed at ſo grofs an insult being offered to Mrs. Baddeley, who was an ornament to any place ſhe was ſeen in; and it gave her a particular pleaſure to ſee her in public at all times. Lady Hertford joined in the ſame opinion. At laſt, the Managers were glad to make their appearance, and not only to ask Mrs. Baddeley's pardon, but the pardon of all the gentlemen who ſtood forth in her behalf; and received a ſevere reprimand for their conduct: ſo that the ladies of the
Theatres,

Theatres, and many others, have to thank Mrs. Baddeley for their present admission. Mrs. Baddeley, with a becoming modesty, returned her grateful thanks to those ladies of fashion, who politely chastized the Managers for their behaviour; then wishing to apologize for the orders they had given; but they were not suffered to say a word in their defence. Mrs. Abington (who waited the event of Mrs. Baddeley's reception, and to whom we immediately sent an account of what had happened) presently made her appearance; and the evening was no longer interrupted.

Lord Melbourne, coming to acquaint us that he should leave town, the next day, for a week, desired Mrs. Baddeley
would

would get well in his absence; and told me, on his return, he would look into some accounts I mentioned to him. Mrs. Baddeley was not a little pleased he was going, as she called such times her holidays; and, as soon as he was gone, she cried, "Now, the devil take
" the Doctors! I'll not see one of them,
" but go and see Hampton-Court, and
" Windsor; which I have not seen for
" some years: and I will take as much
" pleasure as the week will afford." Of course, we ordered the coach and four, and the next morning at ten set off for Hampton. But, before she went, she contrived to let Captain Fawkner know, that she would call at Richmond; for, when we came to Kew-bridge, she said she longed for
some

some Maids of Honour at Richmond (which were cheese-cakes, there sold under that name): "It is not much out of our way, do let's go." We went; and who should we see at the Pastry-cook's but the Captain; which she declared to me was accidental: but I did not believe it, as one of our maids had set off that morning at six o'clock, under the idea of a holiday; and I am firmly convinced she was dispatched to him. We staid and dined at the Castle; and, being obliged to write back to town for something I had forgot, Captain Fawkner and Mrs. Baddeley walked into the garden; which I was sorry for afterwards. We continued all night; and Mrs. Baddeley slept with me.

me. Next morning Captain Fawkner breakfasted with us, and after breakfast we pursued our journey alone, to Hampton-Court; and thence to Windsor, where we dined. Before dinner we went to see the Castle; and, on entering it, a young gentleman accosted us, whose name was Captain Pigot: he begged to escort Mrs. Baddeley through the apartments. This gentleman accompanied us to the inn, and left us. Having inquired of our people whether we had any company, and finding us alone, he sent his compliments, and begged the favour we would admit him to dine with us. Mrs. Baddeley said, "Let him; he is a civil young man;" "I know he is a relation of Lord
VOL. III. C "Pigot's."

“Pigot’s.” I consented; and we sent him word, we should be happy in his company. He was a man of very engaging manners, was very warm in his praises of Mrs. Baddeley, and said he should bless the hour he was so fortunate as to be at the Castle, and record it as the happiest of his life. It being too late to think of returning to town, we ordered a bed, and determined to stay all night. Cards were proposed; but as there were but three, I recollected having an old school-fellow married in this town, whom I proposed to invite, to make up a party at whist; Captain Pigot offered to wait on her, with our compliments: we consented; and he brought her to us. She staid
supper,

supper, and invited us to breakfast the next morning, and Captain Pigot also. This lady and her husband, Mr. Herbert, lived on their fortune, in an elegant style, and very politely received and entertained both us and our horses; which they insisted should be brought from the inn; having prevailed on us to stay a day or two with them. The Captain was each day of the party. The next morning we went for an airing to Salt-hill, where we met Mr. Damer, and a party of his friends. On our return, Mr. Herbert having invited some neighbours, musically inclined, we had a concert; and Mrs. Baddeley's singing was a treat to them. We staid at Mr. Herbert's two days; and, on our

taking leave of him, gave him and his lady an invitation to London; which they promised to accept the first opportunity.

Before we had got two miles from Windsor, in our way to town, Captain Pigot overtook us, said he was going to London, and begged to accompany us; which we declined, under a pretence of not going there that day, intending to spend the evening with a friend upon the road; but told him we should be happy to see him in town. Our carriage and livery being so well known by our friends, we seldom went any where but we were accosted by some one or other. In our way on, at Colnbrook, as we
stopped

stopped to water our horses, a Mr. St. Alban, a young gentleman whom Mrs. Baddeley knew when she lived with her father, asked her how she did. She seemed happy to renew her old acquaintance; and on his asking us to alight and take some refreshment, we consented. This young man was going to Oxford; and, saying he should stop at Henley to dine, Mrs. Baddeley asked him if it was a pleasant place, and how he meant to go? He replied, it was a delightful place, and he was going to hire a chaise to carry him. Now, as Henley was but eighteen miles from Colnbrook, she said, as she was out upon a frolick, if it was agreeable to me, she would accompany him there,

and save him the expence of a chaise. Mr. St. Alban was much delighted with this; and, urging me not to oppose, I agreed to go. We went there and dined; and after dinner, going to see a grotto in Lady Aylesbury's garden, said to be the workmanship of her own hands, on our return we met with Mr. John Hanger, then down on a visit to his father. He had heard of our being at the Red Lion at Henley, and came purposely to see Mrs. Baddeley; who received him very coolly. He addressed himself to Mr. St. Alban, who was a stranger to him, and begged leave to dine with us. The young gentleman did not know what to say upon the occasion; but replied, "With great
" pleasure,

“pleasure, if it is agreeable to the
“ladies.” Indeed it was far from be-
ing agreeable to me, though I said
nothing; and Mrs. Baddeley did not
seem to like it, though she did not
oppose it. He dined with us, and
seemed to envy Mr. St. Alban; to whom
Mrs. Baddeley paid great attention, in
order to mortify Mr. Hanger. When
dinner was over, Mr. Hanger requested
leave to ask me a question alone. I
laughed; and said, as I had no secrets,
he might ask the question in company.
I was persuaded it was only to ask me
who Mr. St. Alban was, and therefore
I would not gratify him. He then
took out his pencil, and wrote “Who
“is this gentleman?” on a piece of
paper;

paper; on which I replied, with the use of the same pencil, "A man of great fortune, whom Mrs. Baddeley is very fond of." On reading this, he threw it into the fire, and slapped his head, saying it ached very much. Mrs. Baddeley smiled, and looked at me. The gentleman, I believe, thought him a little out of his mind, and stared at him much. At this, Mrs. Baddeley moved, and drew her chair nearer to her friend. Mr. Hanger, who could bear this no longer, flew forward, and sat down near her, and said, if his life was at stake, he must tell that gentleman, that his love and affection for Mrs. Baddeley had a right to her attention, and he could not suffer himself
to

to be thus treated. The young gentleman seemed thunder-struck; but, Mrs. Baddeley winking at him, and he conceiving Mr. Hanger was out of his mind, and taking this wink as a confirmation of the fact, got up and handed him a glass of water, with "Please to
" drink this, Sir; it will do you good."
"No, Sir," retorts he, angrily, "I shall
" not drink it; I am not accustomed
" to water. It is you that makes me
" wretched." "Me, Sir!" said the young gentleman; "On what account?"
"Because," replied he, "Mrs. Baddeley
" shows so much attention to you, and
" so little to me." We laughed immoderately; and Mr. St. Alban returned, that he was certainly happy in Mrs.
Baddeley's

Baddeley's notice, whom he had known from her childhood; and had he an empire to give, he would lay it at her feet. This made Mr. Hanger almost distracted. Mrs. Baddeley told him, she blushed for him, and was quite ashamed for his behaviour; and requested he would not offend a gentleman whom she considered as her friend, and for whom she had the highest esteem. "O God!" says he, "my dear Baddeley, say no more of that; I shall go distracted!" On this, Mrs. Baddeley became more serious, and thus addressed him. "Mr. Hanger, how can you make yourself so ridiculous? Have you not, by your cruel conduct, brought on me more trouble
" than

“than ever I had in my life? Is it
 “your study to make my life wretched?
 “If it is, you shall find yourself dis-
 “appointed.” To this Mr. St. Alban
 said, with a becoming spirit, “Sir, if
 “you do not immediately desist from
 “a conversation that I find gives Mrs.
 “Baddeley pain, you must answer it to
 “*me*; for I am determined to protect
 “her:” and then, turning to Mrs.
 Baddeley, said, “Mind him not, my
 “dear angel; you have nothing to fear
 “whilst I am present.” Mr. Hanger
 then went to the other part of the room,
 and pretended to weep; convinced it
 was the only way to affect her whom
 he wished to affect; but she took no
 notice of it. Mr. St. Alban then took
 Mrs.

Mrs. Baddeley by the hand; and she apologized to him for the trouble she had occasioned; saying, it was an unhappiness to her to think she had been the means of bringing a person into his company, that had made so much disturbance. He replied, “My dear
“Madam, the happiness of being with
“you compensates for every thing, nor
“do I regard any attempts to interrupt
“it.” “Sir,” says Mr. Hanger, glowing with anger, “I am of the same
“opinion; and we will then see who is
“to be the happy man immediately.” I thought it now necessary to interfere; and, taking hold of Mr. St. Alban, told him, that Mr. Hanger was, at times, a madman, and that he was now in one
of

of his mad fits, and begged him not to take any notice of his conduct; for that the fit would soon be over, and all would be well. "I thought, indeed," said Mr. St. Alban, "from the first, "that he was out of his mind; and, as "such, it will be best to get him away, "or go away ourselves." Thinking it best to go ourselves, I proposed it to Mrs. Baddeley to proceed on our journey; on which poor Gaby cried out, "Gracious God! where are you going?" "On a visit," replied Mrs. Baddeley, "to our friends." The bill was accordingly called for, and paid by Mr. St. Alban; and when Mr. Hanger found our determination was to leave him, he begged and prayed Mrs. Bad-

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deley would let him only exchange ten words with her alone, and he should be satisfied. "Not one," says she, "but
" in the presence of my friends. It is
" of no use," continued she, " to fol-
" low and pursue me as you do ; for I
" am resolved never more to see you,
" except it be in public, where I can-
" not avoid it."

Though I can feel for the unhappy situation of any one, yet my resentment at Mr. Hanger's conduct prevented my feeling for him. I told him, that he had better leave us ; for if his father heard of this visit, it would incur his displeasure. His reply was, that he cared not for his father on this occasion,
nor

nor any thing else, where it interfered so much with his happiness. Our carriage being then at the door, we approached it; and he followed us to it, with seeming anxiety, and begged to know how far we were going. Mrs. Baddeley told him to Oxford; and the coachman was ordered to take us on in that road. Thus did we get rid of him. We went on with Mr. St. Alban as far as Nettlebed; and, in our way, I opened the whole mystery to him. I told him Mr. Hanger was not mad; but that I said so, merely to put a stop to his quarrelling. We staid at Nettlebed that night, spent the evening very agreeably, and the next morning parted. Mr. St. Alban went on to Oxford, and we on our return to London.

Before we set off, the landlord asked us, if we knew any family that wanted a pretty country-house. He had one to let, well furnished, with a stable and coach-house, a good garden, orchard, and dairy, situated on a common, delightfully pleasant, on an eminence, within three miles of Henley; in a good neighbourhood, where firing might be had out of an adjoining wood, for the cutting, and where the fruit, &c. paid the rent, which was only twenty pounds. His account pleased us; and, as it was not much out of our way, we went to see it: and, as my family was growing up (for I was a married woman, though I did not live with my husband), and the place took my fancy, I engaged it
for

for one year, gave the man three guineas as earnest, and placed a poor woman in it, whom he recommended, till such time as I sent my family down. I told Mrs. Baddeley that I would, if possible, prevail on Mr. Steele to go down with my children, and live in it; for, though Mr. Steele and I lived apart, we were on good terms.

Left we should meet with Mr. Hanger again, at the Red Lion at Henley, we ordered the coachman to pass the house as quick as he could; which he did; and we saw no more of him. At the foot of Henley hill, we met Captain Stanhope, second son of the late Lord Harrington, who was quartered at

D. 3 Henley,

Henley, and a Captain Hodges, who politely came up to the carriage, and walked up the hill along-side of it, conversing with us all the way. When we came to Maidenhead-bridge, we stopped some little time; and in the interim came up two post-chaises and four. In the first was the Earl of Peterborough, with a gentleman; in the latter, Mr. Dillon and a lady. Lord Peterborough, hearing we were in the house, came in and paid his respects to us, saying he was going to Bath; should have been happy to have staid and dined with us, if he was not on a post-haste journey to see a sick friend.

Between

Between Maidenhead and London, having sent our servant on before us to Hammersmith, we were a little alarmed on the road by a footpad, who would have stopped the chaise; but I ordered the drivers to whip the horses: they galloped; and we soon out-run him.

Though we had been absent from town four days, we got home before Lord Melbourne's return. Mrs. Baddeley determined not to tell him of this journey, but to say she had staid at home all the time, and nursed herself. I believe the air was of service to her, for she had no head-ache whilst she was out. I prepared the accounts against his Lordship called for them. He came
in

in the evening, but never mentioned them ; which I was sorry for, as I was in want of cash to discharge some of Mrs. Baddeley's debts, which five or six of her creditors were very importunate to have done. Mr. Law, the linen-draper, in Coventry-street, Haymarket, was one ; who had prevailed on Mrs. Baddeley's good-nature to lay out one hundred and ninety pounds with him. His bill was but of three months standing, and I had paid him eighty pounds in the time : I told him, therefore, as Mrs. Baddeley had not been long upon his books, he must indulge her a few days longer, and then it should be paid. He was very insolent on the occasion ; and, as I did not know, from his behaviour,

viour, what he might do; to prevent any trouble to her, as I had not twenty pounds of her money, I gave him a draught on my own cash, for the amount, and told him he should never have it in his power to behave so again; for I would take care that Mrs. Baddeley should never lay out another shilling with him. I told Mrs. Baddeley of his behaviour, but did not say I had paid him; as I thought a fear of being arrested might, in future, be a check on such extravagancies. She seemed very uneasy, said she would not be so foolish another time, and hoped my Lord would come that evening, that money might be had to pay him. “I wish,” continued she, “I could prevail on you, my dear Mrs. Steele, to
“lend

“lend me as much, as I am afraid he
“will use me ill.” Seeing her unhappy, I produced his receipt; and she blessed me a thousand times, and hoped she should have an opportunity to return my kindness. I replied, the best return she could make, was to consult me in future, when she wished to lay out any large sum of money; and that this would tend to *her* happiness as well as mine; for, as her debts amounted to upwards of two thousand pounds, I had my doubts whether Lord Melbourne would discharge them as she wished. She then begged I would not acquaint his Lordship of the whole, lest it should alarm him; and declared, that if a thousand people were to come in future
to

to show her things, she would see none of them; and seemed very unhappy at her situation. “It is in vain,” said I, “to talk of it now, as the mischief is done; all you have to do, is to be more prudent in future; and I will contrive, some way or other, to get you out of the difficulty.” She then began to be a little more at her ease; and particularly when his Lordship came, and she saw him put some money into my hand, saying, “That must do, Mrs. Steele, for the present.” Lord Melbourne having told her he had given me some cash, he was no sooner gone, than she flew to me to know how much I had received; and, on my saying four hundred pounds, she exclaimed, “Good

“ Good God ! No more ! Why did
“ not you press him for a larger sum ?”
On my telling her what his Lordship
said, when he gave it, namely, “ That
“ must do for the present,” she saw, as
well as myself, the impropriety there
would be in asking him for a further
sum. “ And how we are to manage,”
said I, “ God only knows ; for your
“ note of six hundred pounds, for the
“ necklace, will be brought to-morrow
“ for payment.” “ Take the neck-
“ lace,” says she, “ and pledge it for as
“ much as you can get, and let the note
“ be paid, or I shall be frightened out
“ of my wits.” Accordingly I took the
necklace to Mr. Trip, a pawn-broker,
in St. Martin’s lane, a man whom I had
known

known from my childhood, and could only get two hundred and ten pounds upon it: "Well," says she, "that, with
" the four hundred pounds you have,
" will pay my draught; and we must
" see and get some more money how we
" can." The note was brought, and was paid. I advised her, when Lord Melbourne next came, to tell him herself of the debts that she owed; but, she declared she would sooner die than say one word to him on the subject. I knew no other way than advancing her the money myself; but, having done that before, and his Lordship not keeping his promise to repay me, it was not in my power to pay all these debts, as I wished: however, I knew the worst; I

had enough to quiet them all, if they became troublesome; and I told her I would part with all I had, rather than she should be unhappy.

I don't know the reason, but Lord Melbourne was not so lavish now of his money as he had been. His own expences might occasion it; but, be that as it would, the truth is, he never mentioned the article of money again, for three weeks; and when he did, it was only that he would let me have some shortly. I then told his Lordship, I hoped he would. "Why?" says he, "Mrs. Steele, can you want money?" I replied, "I did:" and on his asking how much? I made no answer; and his
Lordship

Lordship said I should have some next week. I was quite out of spirits on the occasion; but Mrs. Baddeley said, "Don't make yourself uneasy: I can find
" a way to pay these debts, if you will
" agree to it." And on inquiring how; she said, "his Grace the Duke of Northumberland had made her great offers; and it was only her consenting
" to his wishes, and she should be out
" of all this trouble." I told her, I would never consent to her paying her debts that way, as it was doing more evil, and running headlong into perdition; that, if her mind was that way turned, I never would forgive her. She then asked me how she should act. I told her, a little time, with prudence,

would put an end to this difficulty; that I would part with the last shilling to help her; and, as her creditors were not very troublesome, I hoped to bring things round. Though my heart felt much at this time, I carried it off as well as I could, that I might not add to her uneasiness. It had a good effect, and kept her for a little time within bounds; yet occasionally she would want this thing, and the other, which in fact she had no occasion for, and which I put a stop to, by reminding her of her present embarrassment.

The Duke of Northumberland, as if he had private intelligence of our necessity, sent again to renew his former offers.

fers. The same gentleman who applied to Mrs. Baddeley in Hyde-park, now came to Grafton-street, and begged to see her, in order to deliver a note he had brought from Northumberland-house, into her own hands. This surprised her; and she said, "What shall I do? I had better see him."—"By no means," said I: for, knowing her sentiments, I dreaded the consequence: so I went down, and told him Mrs. Baddeley was much indisposed, and could not do herself the pleasure of waiting on him; but if he would intrust me with the note, I would certainly deliver it, and an answer should be sent. His reply was, the contents of the note could not be answered without his ha-

ving an interview, as his Grace did not choose to write all he had, in command, to inform her of; and that, if I would name the time when he could see Mrs. Baddeley, he would wait on her at that time. Now, so anxious was she in this business, that she came to listen to what the gentleman said; and, on hearing him say he would come at some other time, she sent her servant to beg to speak to me; and I desired the gentleman would wait till my return, which he readily agreed to. On my entering her room, she said, “Mrs. Steele, “don’t let him go; sure you must be “mad!—at a time when we are so much “involved. This is a fine opportunity “to extricate myself out of every difficulty;

“ ficulty ; for his Grace is a liberal
“ and generous man.” “ Yes,” re-
plied I ; “ and what reward does he
“ require ?—Such a one, that if you
“ agree to, I will not put up with. I
“ have already suffered much by your
“ imprudence this way ; and I am con-
“ vinced, his Grace will never bestow
“ his bounty, where he cannot be gra-
“ tified in return.” This she declared
he never should. All she wished, was
to see the note and the gentleman : ac-
cordingly, in opposition to me, he was
desired to walk up to the drawing-
room ; and, as I was much displeased, I
left them to themselves. She saw him,
and when he was gone, began to ac-
quaint me with the result of his visit,
which,

which, at first, I would neither hear nor listen to; but on further intreaties I complied. She first gave me the note, and begged me to read it; its contents were as follow:

“ The Duke of Northumberland
“ presents his compliments to Mrs.
“ Baddeley, and has sent a gentleman
“ to communicate something of con-
“ sequence to her.

“ *Wednesday morning,*

“ *eleven o'clock.*”

She then told me that his Grace had offered her his protection for life; with the payment of all her debts, if she owed any; with any sum of money she might

might name; provided she would live with him, and see no other person whatever: that she might either live in his house, or any other she liked, on condition she admitted no other visitor than him: that he would allow her fifteen hundred pounds a year, and, if she was faithful to him, would think of a settlement. She said, that after hearing this gentleman out, she gave him to understand, that her situation was such, as put it out of her power to comply with his Grace's wishes; that she had at present a noble benefactor, whom she was bound in gratitude to live with; and that, if his Grace's offers were ten times as great as he had now mentioned, she could not accept them. The gentleman

gentleman spoke much in praise of his noble friend, and said his bounty would not be bounded by what he had said, but she would find him liberal in the extreme: “on which I replied,” continued she, “that his Grace did not
“propose a settlement, until he saw the
“propriety of my conduct; which is
“far from a liberal offer.” This, he returned, would be no obstacle to his Grace, if my answer was satisfactory; for that his Grace’s esteem and regard for me was such, as would make him happy to gratify me. “However,” says she, “I
“gave him no hopes, considering with
“myself how much more noble Lord
“Melbourne’s bounty had been to me,
“than his Grace’s proposals amounted
“to.

“to. And though,” adds she, “my im-
 “prudence urged me to see this gentle-
 “man, to learn how far I could extricate
 “myself from my present embarrass-
 “ment, I assure you I gave him a denial.”
 I told her I thought she acted right; and
 she thought so too, as she would not of-
 fend me, she said, for the world. “Of-
 “fending me,” replied I, “is nonsense.
 “Lord Melbourne’s generosity should
 “not be abused; and though his unfor-
 “tunate attachment to you, (for he
 “being a married man, I call it unfortu-
 “nate) has been winked at by me, as it
 “took place when I could not avoid it;
 “so has it continued under the same ne-
 “cessity: but there is no reason why you
 “should add sin to sin, and fill up the
 “measure

“measure of your iniquities.” “Good
“God!” said I to myself, “the Duchess
“of Northumberland is still living.—
“How wicked is this fashionable
“world!—To me all this is dreadful.
“But, like all other bad things, they
“become familiar at last; and we think
“nothing of them.—Lord Melbourne,
“never comes to this house, but I feel
“myself hurt, on account of his Lady;
“and the impropriety of *his* visits is
“quite sufficient, without the addition
“of any more. Besides,” continued I,
“you see how much more liberal Lord
“Melbourne has been, than any pro-
“posals made by the Duke of Nor-
“thumberland. Was you to accept
“his Grace’s offer, you must pursue
“a very

“ a very different conduct, or his
“ yearly allowance would not last you
“ three months.”

The Duke, however, did not end his application here; for in the evening this gentleman returned; and Lord Melbourne being then with her, I told him, as he had received his answer in the morning, that any thing he had further to say upon the subject, could not be of any consequence. He assured me it was; and as such he must acquaint her with it, or he might gain his Grace's displeasure; and that, as Mrs. Baddeley had said she would see him whenever he called, he pressed me to let her know it. I told him she was then engaged

with her friend, and to see her was impossible. "That friend's name," replied the gentleman, "she has made me acquainted with:" of course, he supposed Lord Melbourne was with her. To this I said, "It is of little consequence "who is with her" (for I was hurt, she should have mentioned his name); "you cannot see her." I was convinced, however, that she had deceived me, in respect to what passed between this gentleman and her in the morning. I would have changed the subject, but he kept up to his text; said, it would be Mrs. Baddeley's interest to see him; and as she was engaged now, he would call on her the next day, and was sure he should be admitted to her, if she was acquainted

acquainted with his being there. I told him she should be informed of it, and he took his leave. Lord Melbourne soon went; and then Mrs. Baddeley said: "Has any one been here?—My dear Mrs. Steele, has the Duke sent again?" "Did you expect him," returned I, "to send again after your denial?" "No," says she; "but persons of his rank and fortune never drop a pursuit so easily." I told her, I hoped she had not given him the name of her friend. Her reply was, that he himself had mentioned it, and she did not contradict it. "I am sorry," replied I, "for this; you should have denied it." That would have been of little use, she said; for through Mr.

Hanger, and one person or the other, it was very well known. I then told her, this gentleman from the Duke had been with me again; and I was at a loss to know what he could want now. With this she was highly pleased, and said, “You did not, I hope, say that I would not see him? Will he be here again?” “O fie Sophy,” said I, “if you had told him in the morning, as you declared to me you had, you would not want to see him again.” She replied, she only wished to hear what new offers he had to make; and on my saying he would be with her again to-morrow, she said she must and would see him; that it should be for the last time; for, when she had heard all he had to offer, she would forbid

bid his coming any more. The Gentleman came again the next morning, and was shown up into the drawing-room: he was with Mrs. Baddeley near two hours; and on his leaving her, I heard her say in a low voice, "God blefs you; let me see you to-morrow." She ran to me full of his Grace's offers, and his new propofals, which were as follow:—That his Grace wished her not to be ungrateful to her present benefactor, who, he found, had acted fo nobly by her.—"Stop," faid I, "how came he to know how nobly he had acted?" She replied, "I have told him, not mentioning his name."—I let her go on.—That his Grace propofed calling to fee her twice a week, and that at times when he

found Lord Melbourne was not with her; that, on his first visit to tea, he would give her five hundred pounds, and would then tell her himself his whole mind on the subject; that his Grace would discharge all her debts, and be her friend for life: that the gentleman mentioned a Miss Ash, whom his Grace had been kind to for many years; that his liberality and bounty to her were not to be described; that he was a man not like the fashionable world in general, but steady in his attachments, unless he had cause to the contrary; and that he would do any thing for her, she might desire of him.—I listened to this with all the patience I was mistress of; and she ran on with his promises so much,

much, that it would tire my readers to relate it. In short, she told me, she gave the gentleman this answer; that she would consider of his proposals, and give him her determination the next day. "And why," says I, "did you not give him a positive denial then?" "Because," returned she, "I wished to consult you first." I told her she knew my sentiments on the subject, and she might assure herself they would not alter, if the Duke had offered her his whole fortune. "Well," says she, "suppose we admit him to drink tea?" "That would only lead on to further evils," replied I; "and I am determined he shall not come."—"Good God!" says she, "I can have five hundred
"dred

“dred pounds for nothing.”—“Certainly,” replied I, laughing at her, “for
“nothing!—Mankind are too fond of
“their money to bestow it, but in re-
“turn for favours received.” “Surely,
“my dear Steele,” says she, “you are
“not serious; I have partly promised
“to receive him at tea to-morrow.”—

At this I lost my temper, and said,
“You may act as you please; but you
“must invite him to some other house;
“for he certainly shall not come here:
“if he does, as soon as he enters the
“house, I will affront him; and I would
“do the same, if he was King of Eng-
“land.” She was much displeased at
this, said, “I might suffer her to get
“out of her embarrassments, before I
“put

“ put her under such restraint.” I replied, “ her embarrassments were
“ owing to her own folly; and now she
“ wished to commit greater, in hopes of
“ getting out of them; that if she had
“ patience, Lord Melbourne would pay
“ the whole; and she had nothing to do
“ but to act differently in future.” She
then said, “ if I would not suffer his
“ Grace to come there, she would meet
“ him at some other place.” “ If this be
“ your determination,” replied I, “ you
“ shall abide by the consequence, for I
“ will never countenance such conduct.”
In short, I could do nothing with her;
she was fully bent on seeing the Duke,
but took great pains to convince me of
the innocence of her intentions, and
urge

urge me to a compliance ; but I was resolute, and would not consent.

The next morning this gentleman came again ; and she watched his coming, thinking I might send him away without her seeing him : she saw him, and what passed between them, I did not know at the time ; for she ordered the coach, and they went off together. She was gone four hours and more ; and on her return, after begging my pardon, she requested me to listen to what she had to say ; for, as she had been doing no ill, I might attend to her with propriety, and she would tell me the truth, every thing that passed.—On my saying I would hear nothing from her, she
vowed

vowed she would take another bottle of laudanum, which she had in her pocket. Knowing she had done so in the affair of Mr. Hanger, I was alarmed, and thinking, whilst she was out, she might have provided some; I judged it best to hear her. She then told me, as I was so resolute as not to admit of the Duke's coming to the house, she acquainted the gentleman with it; and he prevailed on her to go with him as far as Northumberland-street, that he might acquaint his Grace with the cause that she could not see him at home, saying he would not detain her there ten minutes. She went to Northumberland-street, where the coach stopped and waited his return, when he begged the
favour

favour of her to go with him into Privy-garden, just by Lord Pembroke's, where he would acquaint her with what his Grace had said. She supposed this was to prevent any of the Duke's servants seeing her. When he returned, he got into the coach, but did not say more, than that his Grace was very much hurt at my refusing him to come to my house. On reaching Privy-garden he directed the coachman where to stop, saying, that place was the least noticed. In a few minutes came the Duke, wrapped up in a great coat, with a handkerchief up to his face, and, getting into the coach, ordered the gentleman to go home, and wait for him. He, in a very polite manner, begged her pardon, she said, for the intrusion,

intrusion; but, finding the lady, at whose house she was, averse to his seeing her there, he was willing to embrace that opportunity to declare his sentiments, and said, “ Will you permit your coach-
“ man to drive on, for a ride, to Chelsea,
“ through the King’s road ?” and begged the silk curtains might be let down. That she ordered her coachman to drive the road the Duke wished; and that, in the way, he said a thousand civil things to her; and that she thought him a very *good* man: this was her expression. That telling his Grace she had a house at Hammer-smith, he wished to see it; that accordingly they went and continued there about an hour and a half. That he pressed for favours, but had not

a wish for more than was really consistent for her to grant. That he offered her every thing her heart could wish ; and said how sorry he was, I was so much averse to his happiness. That he wished to know how he had offended me. That she told his Grace, I had no other motive for my refusal than the impropriety of her conduct ; that I wished her to avoid all men in general ; but that, since I had imprudently entered into a connexion with one man, it would be a breach of faith, and the highest ingratitude, to listen to the proposals of any other. That his Grace said, if these were my motives, he honoured me for them, and could not be angry with me : that, was he the happy Lord
that

that enjoyed her favours, how much should he value me ! On this, he took out a glove, and begged her to ask me to try it on ; and, if I liked it, to keep it, and remember that it was a present from him. She gave me this glove ; it was a new one ; and I threw it down, saying I would not accept it. She said, Do, pray, take it ; there is something in it ; but which she had not looked at. Finding I would not take it up, she stooped for it, and pulled out from it three bank-notes of one hundred pounds each.—“ They are,” said I, “ the price of your infamy, and “ you may keep them yourself : I will “ have nothing to do with them : you “ are the proper person to enjoy them,

“ if they will afford you any enjoyment.” She said, if I did not take them, she would throw them into the fire ; and, on my refusing them, actually did ; and it was at the risk of my hands that I rescued them from the flames. I then put them into a drawer, and locked it, saying it was not times to destroy such a sum. She declared her innocence with the Duke ; confessed she had given him hopes of favours ; and said she might have had from him any sum she thought proper to accept : that she refused all his offers, but had promised to meet him again on Thursday at Hammersmith-house, and was determined she would.

When

When she had done, I sent off a servant for one of her milliners, to whom she owed near six hundred pounds, Price, of Tavistock-street, and paid him the three hundred pounds which she said his Grace sent me as a present in the glove, and gave her his receipt, telling her I was happy so far in convincing her that the money was properly applied to her own use, as it was she that deserved it, and not me. At this, she exclaimed, "Oh! Mr. Steele, what a good heart you have! Shall I ever live to make you amends?" I replied, there were none due or expected; that I had not a shadow of claim to the money; nor would I, on the score it was given, take a present

G 3

from

from any man ; that I despised such meannesses ; and that, if I received a hundred thousand pounds in a similar way, I would either return it, or apply it to her use. She solemnly assured me his Grace gave it with no improper view, and did it in so delicate a way, that any woman might have accepted it ; that he begged pardon for sending so trifling a thing as a glove ; but that as it was one he had worn, and as she would not permit him to present her his hand, he hoped she would accept his glove as its representative.

About this time Mr. Foote brought out a new piece, at the little Theatre in the Haymarket, called *The Maid of Bath*, alluding to Miss Linley, now Mrs.

Mrs. Sheridan : and, prior to its first appearance, he called on us, and requested we would accept of a box for the night, which should be at our service, for us and our friends ; and hoped we would make a point of being there, in order to grace (as he was pleased to say) his Theatre. The box reserved for us was next to the stage-box, that commanded a sight of the whole house ; and we went. Mr. Foote performed in this play himself ; it went off with *éclat*, and was well received by a crowded house. About the middle of the piece, where Mr. Foote enlarged much on the beauty of the Maid of Bath, he added, “ Not even the beauty of the nine
“ Muses, nor even that of the divine
“ Baddeley

“Baddeley herself, who there sits,”
(pointing to the box where we sat,)
“could exceed that of the Maid of
“Bath.” This drew a thunder of ap-
plause from all parts of the house: he
was encored; and Mr. Foote repeated
the words three times. Every eye was
on Mrs. Baddeley; and I do not recollect
ever seeing her so confused before. She
rose from her seat, and curtesied to the
audience; and it was near a quarter of
an hour before she could discontinue her
obedience, the plaudits lasting so long.
This trick of Mr. Foote’s put her so
much to the blush, that the colour did
not leave her face the whole evening.
Mrs. Baddeley’s face was not, according
to the fashion of modern beauties, made
up

up by art, for she never used any rouge but on the stage; which all the performers, men and women, are obliged to do, owing to the livid paleness which the lights in front cast upon the face.

Having occasion to go out to see a daughter of mine, who was then at school, sick, Mrs. Baddeley complained of a head-ache, and said she would lie down; desiring me to call at her milliner's, and other places, for necessaries which she wanted. I was also obliged to stay longer than I intended; as, finding my child ill, I fetched Dr. Eliot to attend her. On my return home, I went up stairs, gently, expecting to find Mrs. Baddeley asleep; but, hearing a noise above, I listened, and

and heard her laugh immoderately ; which she always did at any mischief that was going forward. On entering the room, I told her I was happy to find her head-ache gone, and wished to know what made her so cheerful, that I might partake of it. At this she laughed the more, and said, “ My dear “ Steele, as you staid so long, I was “ coming after you in a chair, and have “ ordered my servant to fetch one ; do “ send down and prevent it.” Mrs. Baddeley then went to the glass, and bad her maid stand by her ; then, viewing herself, she said to her maid, “ I cannot “ think why the world should so much “ admire my sister : to be sure she’s “ handsome ; but my face is as handsome
“ as

“ as hers, and more so; is it not, Fanny?”
 The maid replied, “ Yes, Miss, indeed
 “ you are much handsomer than her
 “ Ladyship.” And then Mrs. Baddeley
 laughed again. “ Well,” said I, “ pro-
 “ ceed; I hear you with pleasure.” She
 went up to the glass again, strutting and
 viewing herself as before, and saying,
 “ Well, the world can but admire me;
 “ and, if I am not so tall as my sister,
 “ they can only say, there goes a *Lump*
 “ *of Beauty.*” On my inquiring into
 all this nonsense, she said, a gentleman
 had been with her in my absence, and
 had told her this little story of Lady
 Archer’s sister. The lady that is always
 seen with Lady Archer is her sister. They
 are the daughters of Mr. West, who
 lived

lived in the great house in King-street, Covent-garden, now known by the name of Lowe's Hôtel. "The gentleman
" who has been here," said she, "has
" been entertaining me with the manner
" in which he entered into high life; say-
" ing, this Miss West, who called herself
" the *Lump of Beauty*, in the manner I
" have represented it before the glass, fell
" in love with him; that till this accident
" happened, he had no expectations but
" to wear a pen behind his ear all his life."
" Who is this gentleman?" said I, interrupting her—"Hear his history first," said she, "and then I'll tell you.—That
" he was the second son of a West-India
" merchant, living in, or near, Golden-
" square; that he was placed at a count-
" ing-

“ ing-house in the city, and had been
 “ there some time ; that accident made
 “ him acquainted with this Lump of
 “ Beauty, who introduced him to her
 “ sister, Lady Archer, and her husband.
 “ This introduction into high life unset-
 “ tled his mind to the counting-house,
 “ according to his own declaration, and
 “ made him pine for better company
 “ than his situation in life intitled him
 “ to ; that he then began to study dress
 “ and fashionable manners, and, being
 “ a personable man, and well educated,
 “ through Lord Archer’s family, he got
 “ introduced to other persons of rank,
 “ supporting his expences by play, at
 “ which he was very fortunate.”—
 “ Why don’t you tell me his name ?”

said I, with impatience. “Softly,”
returned she, “and you shall know it.—
“This gentleman, who has just been
“here in your absence, waited on this
“Lump of Beauty for some time, and,
“through her, became a member of
“the ladies club, and was admitted at
“Almack’s, at Boodle’s, at Goostrey’s,
“and all the gaming-houses in town;
“where he had such a run of luck, as
“to enable him to keep a vis-à-vis,
“and live as a man of fortune.”—
“Well, then,” returned I, “at best,
“you can only call him a gambler; and
“he may in one night be as wretched
“as he is now happy.” “Oh,” replies
she, “he has wit at will to direct him,
“and has been prudent, and taken care
“of

“ of his money. This gentleman,”
 says she, “ as he was passing the end of
 “ Grafton-street, seeing you go out
 “ without me, came in and told my
 “ maid, for John was out, that he must
 “ see me, on very particular business.
 “ The girl said I was ill, but asked him
 “ in, and said she would go and ac-
 “ quaint me. He followed her up stily,
 “ and came into my room.” “ And
 “ who was this insolent man ?” said I,
 with a degree of warmth. “ Only,”
 says she, curtesying and laughing, “ Mr.
 “ Thomas Storer.” Vexed beyond mea-
 sure, and to be laughed at, I replied,
 “ Had I known his name sooner, I should
 “ not have attended to his history. Was
 “ you up ?” “ No,” says she ; “ and

“ I had enough to do to keep him from
“ me: but Fanny went down stairs,
“ and called Betty the laundry-maid,
“ who would put on her cap before she
“ would appear, she said, before any
“ gentleman; and then, when her cap
“ was on, and Susan the kitchen-maid
“ had been up into the garret to put
“ on a clean apron, they all met, and,
“ settling the matter between them-
“ selves, came at last into my room,
“ and with great difficulty got him
“ away into another room.”—“ Why,”
said I, “ they were a long time about
“ it. Why did you not ring the bell?”
“ Oh,” said she, laughing, “ the wicked
“ man had me too fast in his arms for
“ that: however, he left me at last,
“ and

“and I got up. He then apologized
 “for coming on me so abruptly, and
 “did it in such a winning way, that I
 “could not for my soul be angry, but
 “gave him a kiss and forgave him.”

I lost all patience with her on this recital, and told her, that her exposing herself to her servants was worse than all. She told me, she could no way help it. I was very angry with her, but it answered no purpose. Thus was she laughing at me the whole time; for Fanny had been privy to this meeting, and the noise I heard on going up stairs was no other than his flying out of her chamber; and during the time she was relating his history, he slipped off. She was at this time in so titter-

ing a mood, and so full of her fun, calling herself the Lump of Beauty, that I found it was no time to talk to her; but determined to discharge Fanny, and tell her my mind at a more seasonable opportunity. She then said she had seen another gentleman, and she was afraid Mr. Storer had heard what he said. This was the Duke of Northumberland's friend, that came with a most polite message from his Grace, requesting the favour of a meeting at Hammer-smith that evening at six. She asked me to accompany her; and, on my saying I would not, replied, she would then go by herself. I told her, I was unhappy at seeing it. She replied, that her intentions were innocent, and
that

that she should go, for the last time, merely to acquaint his Grace she could admit of his visits no longer; "for," continues she, "a man of his rank and situation in life should be treated with respect;" that he was a gentleman of too good a character to put an improper construction on her meeting him; that no harm could arise from a reserved interview; that he could not *eat* her (these were her words); and that, as he had always behaved with the greatest politeness and attention to her, she would not be wanting in civility on her part. I told her, she was mistress of her own actions; that I wished not to exercise any authority over her; that what I said was out of pure friendship
and

and regard; and that, as I found my friendly advice was not taken, I should in future not attempt to give it: that she seemed totally to forget her benefactor Lord Melbourne, and the injury she had already done his Lady; and was now seeking for an opportunity of disturbing the peace of another family.

In the afternoon she ordered the coach and went to Hammer Smith alone. In her absence came Lord Melbourne. I told him Mrs. Baddeley was out. "Out!" exclaimed he; "and without you!—How is this?" I told his Lordship, I was not very well, and could not go with her. "Where is she gone?" says he. To Hammer Smith, I told

I told him, for a ride, and to give some directions about the house. He replied, he had left his lady at the play-house, and must return to her immediately; and therefore, after a little conversation, he left me.

Mrs. Baddeley did not come home till twelve o'clock, and when she came was in high glee and spirits; begged my pardon for being so long absent, but said she could not avoid it, and that I should not be displeased when I heard all. "I have never," continued she, "experienced so much, as since I left you." I told her I was not in spirits to attend to her, and wished to go to bed. She was the same way disposed, and

and we went up together. "Now," says she, "my ever dear, dear Mrs. Steele, let me tell you all that has passed"—and, on my saying to-morrow would be time enough, she replied, "if you do not hear me now, I shall not be able to sleep." My silence giving consent, she began with saying, the Duke was at Hammersmith before her—that he handed her from her carriage—that they drank tea—and that, during tea, he launched forth a great deal in her praise, and expressed his love and esteem for her in the warmest terms; and that he ran on two hours, using all the arguments he was master of, to gain her compliance with his wishes; but that she was not to be won: that he offered her any part of his

his fortune: that, when he found words would not avail, he took her in his arms; vowed he loved no woman on earth but her; that if she persisted in her non-compliance, he must—and there he stopped. Must what? said she. “I must,” returned he,—“be unhappy.” That he held her fast in his arms an hour, and that she begged him repeatedly to let her go—and he would not. “How then,” said she, “my dear friend, did I wish to be with you! “I never till that moment was sensible “of my imprudence, and how little “dependence there is on any man; for “I was then aware of his determination, and his offers I disregarded as “dross. In short,” said she, “much “against

“ against my will, he led me to my
“ chamber; I found my resolution give
“ way; and I did, what I now repent
“ of.” She cried much, as she gave
me this relation, and said he would
have given her bank-notes to a great
amount; but that she was so angry
with herself, for what she had done, and
his improper treatment of her, that she
would not take them;—that he said he
would inclose them in a letter, and send
them to her next day.—“ I am now
“ glad,” replied I, “ that you see for
“ once the impropriety of your con-
“ duct. Had you taken my advice, you
“ would not have put yourself in his
“ power, and, consequently, would not
“ have met with the ill usage you men-
“ tion,

“ tion, and which you richly deserve.—

“ You see how far mankind is to be relied

“ on ; be they of what rank they will !

“ But, with all the ill treatment, you say

“ you now meet with, and the tears it has

“ cost you, I find you returned home full

“ of spirits, as if nothing had happened.”

These were affected spirits, she said, lest I would not give her a patient hearing, and that the servants might not make remarks.—She then begged I would forgive her, saying, she would never act in opposition to my advice in future ; and I promised so to do, on condition she would discharge her maid, for being instrumental to Mr. Storer's seeing her in the morning ; for that I was persuaded

she had taken money of him, to admit him. She believed it herself, and thought she went to Mr. Storer's lodging, and gave him intelligence of my being out: for Mr. Storer lived in the neighbourhood; and she was seen to go out. She was of course discharged. It came out afterwards from Mr. Storer himself, that she actually did as we apprehended.

The next morning Sir Thomas Mills called (this gentleman is the natural son of Lord Mansfield); invited himself to tea, and said, with our leave he would bring an old friend with him, Admiral Spry. The gentleman also from the Duke of Northumberland called,

called, and begged to see Mrs. Baddeley, saying, he had a letter only to deliver into her hands, which required no answer, and that he would not detain her a minute. She, with a seeming reluctance, saw him; and, on his delivering the letter, he bowed and left her. Returning she gave me the letter, which I opened; it contained three bank-notes, to the amount of five hundred pounds, and was as follows:

“ My dear Mrs. Baddeley,

“ Inclosed is a trifle which I
 “ beg your acceptance of. By your
 “ accepting of this, I shall be able to
 “ direct some more of the same sort to

I 2

“ your

“ your hand, and to explain myself
“ more fully.

“ Respectfully Your’s.

“ *Friday morning.*”

This note was written by the Duke himself, but without a name. Mrs. Baddeley observed upon this, that this sum was first sent by way of introduction, to see how it would be received. “ And if the sum of five hundred pounds
“ was not, at this time, of great use to
“ me,” said she, “ I would send it back;
“ but as it is, Mrs. Steele, put it into
“ your pocket: I suppose I shall hear
“ from him again in a day or two.”

In

In the afternoon came Sir Thomas Mills, with Admiral Spry, who invited us to the Naval review at Portsmouth. We were just going to cards, when Lord Melbourne knocked at the door; which obliged Mrs. Baddeley to leave them, saying, she hoped they would excuse the necessity, and should be happy to see them at any other time. Mrs. Baddeley having retired, they soon took their leave, the Admiral saying he should expect us at Portsmouth.

I began now to think of disposing of the Duke's money, and proposed the next day to divide it among those who most wanted it. Mrs. Baddeley said, his Lordship promised, in a few days, to

settle accounts with me. She said, he made many inquiries about what she was doing at Hammersmith; but that she excused herself very well; saying she had taken my daughter with her, then about ten years of age. "How's that?" returns his Lordship. "Mrs. Steele said you was alone." "Oh," replied she, she does not consider the child as any one." He then inquired after the child, and said, when his son was a man, he should marry her, and she would then be a *lamb*; his Lordship's name being Lamb.

As I made it a rule, when we had any money to spare, to send for the tradesmen, in whose debt we were, and pay them

them part of their bills, if not the whole; it was a means of keeping them quiet. The Duke's five hundred pounds was wholly disposed of this way. Mr. Storer called, but no admittance. We then proposed an airing; and, getting into the coach, Mr. George Hobart came up, and offered to accompany us. We went towards Turnham-green, where he requested we would do him the honour to dine with him. A dinner was ordered at the Pack-horse, and we had every thing the house afforded. Mr. Hobart's polite attention on all occasions, commanded our respect; for though Mrs. Baddeley would not receive his addresses, he always noticed her as a gentlewoman, and was at all times

times ready to oblige her. On our return home, we found the gentleman from the Duke of Northumberland had called, and proposed calling the next day. "This," said Mrs. Baddeley, "is with more money to me." Two letters were also brought; one from Mr. Johnson, and one from Lord Melbourne.

Admiral Spry called to acquaint us that the time for the review was fixed; that it would continue three days; and advised us to write down, and order beds; as, when the people at Portsmouth came to know it, we should not be able to procure them under ten guineas a night. The Admiral told us, that, if we pleased, we might be all day on board his

his ship, except the day his Majesty proposed him the honour of dining with him. The Admiral was a plain man, but one of a princely character, and an ornament to the navy: we accepted his invitation, and, when we came to Portsmouth, we were to let him know, and he would fetch us in his barge.

At ten o'clock, according to appointment, the gentleman called again from the Duke of Northumberland, and requested to see Mrs. Baddeley, as he had a letter to deliver into her own hands, and wished to see me likewise. Mrs. Baddeley urged me to see him; saying she had told the Duke how I had disposed of the three hundred pounds

pounds he sent me, and shewed him the receipt for the same; which she took in her pocket purposely, that he might not think me under an obligation I would not acknowledge. At this his Grace said, my heart was as noble as my mind, and that I was an ornament to my sex: therefore, if I refused any thing now sent, it would be folly; he having no occasion to bribe me; for that the Duke being now fully acquainted with her sentiments, nothing farther dishonourable would ever pass between them. I went down to the gentleman, not forgetting her words in my way; and said, "Sir, my servant informed me, you have a wish to see *me*." "Pardon me," replied he, "it is by
" his

“ his Grace of Northumberland’s order,
“ that I am, with his compliments, to
“ present you with this.” I asked, if
it required an answer? He said,
No; on which I put it into my pocket,
and left him, saying, Mrs. Baddeley
would wait on him presently. She beg-
ged to know what passed, and I gave
her the letter: she opened it, and it
contained four bank-notes of one hun-
dred pounds each, with a slip of paper,
on which was written, *A reward for a
noble disposition.* Mrs. Baddeley returned
it to me, and then went down to the
gentleman, with whom she had much
conversation, continuing with him more
than an hour: he gave her a packet
sealed up, which she did not open till
after

after he was gone: she then flew up to me, and gave it me to open; saying, there was no letter; for what the Duke had to say, he did not choose to commit to writing. The packet contained, as before, five hundred pounds in bank-notes; which made her very happy: she then told me what the gentleman had said to her; namely, that his Grace being fearful she should refuse the letter, he was directed, if she did, to give it to her to present me with it; that the Duke sent his kind love to her; that he was, and ever should remain, in the mind he had before expressed himself; that, as she had so often told him she could not receive his visits in her present situation, he only requested, that if time should

should alter it, and she would acquaint him with the same, she would meet with all his promises, whenever she chose to command them; that he would, on all occasions, show himself her friend; and the only favour she could bestow on him, in the present state of things, was to put it in his power to convince her of it otherwise than by words, and to accept the small token he had sent in testimony of it.

“ This money,” said Mrs. Baddeley, “ will make us happy at Portsmouth.” “ Yes,” returned I, “ It will make our *minds* happy; for I beg it may be paid where it is due.” She put a negative upon this; saying, “ The

VOL. III. K “ people

“ people must wait till money comes
“ from Lord Melbourne for; his Lord-
“ ship has not been very bountiful of
“ late; therefore, till *more* comes, I
“ will not part with *this*.” I told her,
she might command the money he sent
to me; but she declared on her honour
and soul, I should not part with a shil-
ling of it on her account; that it was
my own, and three hundred pounds to
it (alluding to the first three his Grace
sent me), if I had what was my right.
All she wished was, that I would give
her a keep-fake, which she would pre-
serve in memory of me, as long as she
lived. I promised her I would, and as
she had no bracelets, I bought her a
pair of enamelled lockets, set round with
brilliants,

brilliant, with small pearls to go round the wrist; which cost me one hundred and thirty pounds, and which she did me the favour to accept. She constantly wore them, and did me the credit to say upon all occasions, they were a present from me.

In point of money-matters, now we were tolerably easy; but my fears were, that whilst this sum was in the house, some new thing would occur that would not be pleasing. One of the players came the next day, and gave us an account of an actor of some merit, being in distress, locked up in a spunging-house, for a debt of twenty-five pounds; that Mr. Garrick had been applied to,

and would not advance him a penny; that he had a good wife, and a family of children; that, as he had not money to defray the expences of the house where he was, he must go to jail that night, if he could not find a friend to assist him; and, that at his desire, he took the liberty to call on Mrs. Baddeley. She looked wishfully at me, anxious I knew to relieve him, if it met with my approbation. I told her, as this person had a family, if she would pay half the debt, I would pay the other. "No," returns she, "permit me; I will pay the whole. Let us order the coach, and go and relieve him." We accordingly went, discharged the debt and costs, and took him home to his wife,

wife, who did not expect to see him: and, to express the gratitude of the people, and the satisfaction we felt, would require an abler pen than mine. He was desirous of giving us his note for the money; but we refused it, saying, we begged his acceptance of it; and Mrs. Baddeley giving one of the children two guineas, we left them to the enjoyment of each other. We had scarce reached home, before Lord Palmerston called, and asking where we had been: we told him, to relieve a distressed family, and mentioned some of the particulars. His Lordship seemed desirous of knowing how far he could be of use to the man, and who he was, as he should be happy to send him a few

guineas. I begged to be excused mentioning his name, as he was a player, and it might tend only to expose him, without any good end; but that, if his Lordship thought proper to send him any thing, I would convey his favour, and the family should acknowledge it. He gave me five guineas, but begged I would not say from whom it came.

Sir Thomas Mills now called to acquaint us, from Admiral Spry, that we must set off the day after to-morrow for Portsmouth: he advised us to take our own horses, and to lie at Guilford the first night; and, on our arrival at Portsmouth, to send immediately to the Admiral.

As

As Lord Melbourne was out of town, and would continue so for some time, we began to prepare for the journey; and, in order to make the best appearance we could, we equipped ourselves accordingly, both for our persons and our equipage. Doctor Arne came the next morning to breakfast, to whom we never were denied; and inquiring of him what brought him out so early, he said, to look for money, and asked if we could favour him with the loan of twenty pounds. The money was lent him, by Mrs. Baddeley, and he gave his note for the same, payable either to her or to me. Mrs. Baddeley, as soon as she received it, threw it into the fire, saying, "Now, " Doctor, your note is paid. Your
" accep-

“ acceptance of twenty pounds is a
“ sufficient recompense to me ; for, in
“ my first outset in life, when I was not
“ able to pay you, how kindly did you
“ and your son give me many a les-
“ son. This is a circumstance I shall
“ never forget, and I hope to be able
“ to show my further gratitude in a
“ little time.” Dr. Arne was not a little
pleased, flattered, and thankful. When
he was gone, she asked me whether I
thought she acted right: I told her, I
should have done the same, had I been
under similar obligations ; but she must
not think of parting with any more
money at present.

I had

I had many things to adjust abroad; but, being afraid to leave her, I proposed sending for the hair-dresser, who I knew would engage her three hours, and put a book into her hands. She approved of this, for she was fond of reading, and few women read better; and the man was sent for.

Before the man had finished her hair, I returned. She asked me if I had bought her the tickets she wished in the Irish lottery. I told her I had bought three: "Then, pray, Mrs. Steele," said she, "give them to the hair-dresser to try his fortune." I did as she desired: he was thankful, and said, as they were

were a present of hers, he was sure they would be lucky.

We had a visit now from Doctor Hayes, of Marlborough-street, the physician, with whom Mrs. Baddeley once lived. She was happy to see him, and he staid tea. He talked of old times; and from thence he passed to the present ones, said he had purchased some shares in the Pantheon, which brought on the story related before of her having been refused admittance. He was happy, he said, to find the nobility took so active a part in her favour, and declared the managers were terribly frightened for the consequences. He then told her,

she

she was still as dear to him as ever: but, as I did not quit the room, he had no opportunity of saying more; and after tea he left us. At nine o'clock, Mr. Dibden the player came to ask a favour of her, which she readily complied with. He staid supper, told us a strange story of Mr. Bickerstaff, the author, and of Mrs. Wrighten's being engaged at the Theatre; and said she had powers and a good voice, but, he was of opinion, would never do for the stage. Here he prophesied ill; for Mrs. Wrighten is, at this day, an able performer, and a credit to the Theatre.

We, next morning, set off for Portsmouth, having sent our maid in the stage
the

the day before: we stopped and laid at Guilford the first night, and reached Portsmouth the next evening, where we found all things prepared for our reception. Sir Thomas Mills called on us as soon as we arrived; he told us the Admiral was on board the *Barfleur*, and that we must send our servant to him, to let him know we were arrived. We did so; and the Admiral returned his compliments, and said he would wait on us as soon as possible, which he did, and drank tea with us. These gentlemen, the next morning, walked round the town with us; for the review was not to be till the next day: we were well dressed, and met here many of our friends, and were accosted by all. Sir Thomas
was

was not a little proud of the company he was in. As we got into the barge to go on board, six sailors in company bowed to the Admiral; and one of them, with an oath, said, the whole fleet could not show so fine a fight as that lady, meaning Mrs. Baddeley; and another swore, if he was George the Third, she should be his queen. “Bravo, “Jack!” said Admiral Spry, and gave the fellow a guinea to drink her health. As soon as we were seated in the barge, the Admiral was saluted by a discharge of guns. When we came along-side the Barfleur, the ship was manned to receive us; and the Captain, whom I knew from his childhood, was as happy to see us as can be expressed. We were con-

ducted into the Admiral's apartments ; and chocolate, with various sorts of cakes and preserves, were brought before us. We were then shown the ship ; and being very tall, and not stooping sufficiently, I received a slight blow in passing the hammocks which hung over our heads. The Admiral immediately ordered them all down, and not to be hung up again, in the day-time, till the review was over. I was not much hurt, but his orders were obeyed ; in ten minutes not a hammock was to be seen. We staid dinner, and the table was richly and elegantly served, equal to any nobleman's I ever saw, except the Duke of Queensberry's, which exceeds all description for elegance, neatness,

ness, splendor, and profusion. Our dinner consisted of three courses, and a dessert fit for the King; with ices, creams, jellies, syllabubs, pines, and fruit of all kinds, with the most costly wines. Mrs. Baddeley was so charmed with the reception and entertainment she met with, that she did not know how to express herself. She sung; and being asked a second time, sung,

How little do the landsmen know

What we poor sailors feel,

When waves do mount, and winds do blow!

But we have hearts of steel.

No danger can affright us,

No enemy can flout;

We'll make the Monfieurs right us;

So put the can about.

ducted into the Admiral's apartments ; and chocolate, with various sorts of cakes and preserves, were brought before us. We were then shown the ship ; and being very tall, and not stooping sufficiently, I received a slight blow in passing the hammocks which hung over our heads. The Admiral immediately ordered them all down, and not to be hung up again, in the day-time, till the review was over. I was not much hurt, but his orders were obeyed ; in ten minutes not a hammock was to be seen. We staid dinner, and the table was richly and elegantly served, equal to any nobleman's I ever saw, except the Duke of Queensberry's, which exceeds all description for elegance, neatness,

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What we poor failors feel,

When waves do mount, and winds do blow!

But we have hearts of steel.

No danger can affright us,

No enemy can flout;

We'll make the Monfieurs right us;

So put the can about.

This song, and her manner of singing it, delighted the whole company. The Admiral considered it as a compliment paid him, and ordered his Secretary to remember and get it, that it might be sung in memory of Mrs. Baddeley, when they were many leagues from thence. She was requested to sing it again, and, with the variations she threw in it, the emphasis she laid on particular words, and the action she made use of throughout, she put the whole company in raptures. After dinner, tea and coffee was served in silver equipage. A band of music was now introduced, and many fine pieces they played; and, on our wishing to go on shore, the Admiral requested of Mrs. Baddeley one favour, which

which was, before our departure, to sing the seaman's song again, and upon deck, accompanied with the music: she complied as before, with an additional flow of spirits, and the whole ship's crew joined in chorus. When she had done, I requested her, on my part, to close the whole with, *God save the King*. The Admiral was delighted, said all his men should join her; and it was sung, and chorus'd by the crew, with a thunder of applause from every part of the ship; and, I received the thanks of every one present. Every man, by the Admiral's order, drank his Majesty's health, with three cheers. The ship was then manned again, every one to his station. Sir Thomas Mills and the Admiral accom-

panied us on shore; and we could do no less than express our gratitude at this hospitable and polite entertainment.—

Admiral Spry told us, the King was to dine on board the *Barfleur* the next day; and of course he could not have the honour to attend us; but, the day after, he claimed our promise of being on board again, and recommended us to be in time the next day, to secure a good place on land, to see the review; then leaving us to the care of Sir Thomas Mills, he took his leave, saying his attendance on board was necessary, to see all was in order for his Majesty's reception. More than twenty of the nobility had called at our lodgings, and left their names. His Majesty, we understood,

understood, was now come; for guns were firing, the bells were ringing, and the houses were illuminated, and every demonstration of joy shown in all parts of town. We ordered our coach, and rode through it. After riding about an hour and a half about the town (Sir Thomas with us), and delighted with the gratitude of all ranks of people to his Majesty, we returned home to supper; and Sir Thomas, promising to be with us early, took his leave and withdrew.

We ordered the carriage by eight o'clock in the morning, as Sir Thomas said his Majesty would be very early, looking about the fortifications, batteries, &c. before he went on board. We
were

were up at six, and by eight were full-dressed for the day; at which hour Sir Thomas came. We rode about, accompanying his Majesty in his circuit; where he was attended by thousands of all ranks, who seemed to contend with each other in their praise and congratulations. We thought nothing wanting to complete the scene, but the presence of her Majesty, (who was not at Portsmouth upon this occasion), to share in the general joy of the thousands who came here from all parts of the world. I do not mean to give my readers an account of this review, which has been retailed at large in all the public prints; I shall only say, that the splendor of the sight exceeded any description of mine.

In

In the evening we went to the play, attended by Sir Thomas, and sent to the Admiral to solicit his company. He returned word, that he would certainly be there; but he feared it would be late first. The house was crowded; and the piece performed was, *Romeo and Juliet*, with a Harlequin entertainment. Wroughton performed Romeo; and the play was tolerably well performed, till an interruption took place in the gallery. In that part of the play where Juliet exclaims, "Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?" "Look a-head, my dear girl," says a sailor above, "and you'll soon find him: "Was I near him, I'd kick him to hell, "for not coming to so sweet a creature."

“ture.” This made the whole house laugh so immoderately, as to stop the performance for some time. The fellow went on, and others joined him. “That Roman,” (as they called him) “will be soon fore and aft with the dear girl, I’ll warrant him.” When the entertainment began, in came the Admiral, apologizing for being so late, as he had but just left his ship. He told us he should have many of his choicest friends with him the next day, who promised themselves great pleasure in our company. When Harlequin made his appearance, the sailors began again. One said, if that dapper-patched dog, who he believed stole his jacket from the dressing of the ships, had been with
Mr.

Mr. Roman, he would have paid him well with his rapper, he'd warrant. For the poor pretty girl's sake, he wished he'd come again. This set the house again in a roar, and when he said the dog had stole his jacket from the ship's filks, Lord Townshend, who was present, laughed heartily, and wrote it down with a pencil. Sir Thomas and the Admiral supped with us.

The next morning we were up at six, and we dressed ourselves to the greatest advantage. Mrs. Baddeley put on all her jewels, and her rich diamond necklace, on which I had borrowed two hundred pounds, but soon after redeemed. Admiral Spry and Sir Thomas Mills found

found us ready when they called. They conducted us on board, as before, and we were received in the same manner. During breakfast, a band of music played; and when breakfast was over, the signals were displayed, as when his Majesty was present. We saw the whole with great pleasure and ease to ourselves, and in much greater perfection than the day before. The King was on board another ship; the day was a fine one, and the sight beyond description. During the spectacle, we were a little surprised by the violent scream of a young voice on board, but could not learn the occasion, the attention of all present being fixed on the business of the day. Chocolate and cakes were handed round
to

to all the company, and the whole ended some little time before dinner; when the music struck up, *God save the King!* and Mrs. Baddeley and the whole ship's crew joined in chorus. When dinner was announced, we went into the cabin, to the number of eighteen. The first course, consisting of twenty-one dishes, was served up in plate; the rest of the dishes served in beautiful china, besides a dessert. Every thing in season was before us; and there were six Admirals of the party. Admiral Spry was happy and merry, and, when dinner was over, had the music strike up. Calling on Mrs. Baddeley for a sentiment, she took a glass of champagne, and gave, "May
 " every engagement at sea be attended

“ with the loss of as few lives as that
“ of *this* day; but may we be ever
“ victorious over the French!”

This sentiment pleased; it went round, and was written down by a gentleman present. I was then called upon for mine, and gave, “ May there never be
“ greater cause for engagements than
“ the cause of this day; and may all
“ belonging to his Majesty’s navy enjoy
“ the blessing of peace!” This was also penned down. After every sentiment we had a song. Admiral Spry sung *Heart of Oak*, &c. and was chorus’d. When it came to Mrs. Baddeley’s turn to sing, she begged their choice, and was requested to sing, “ *Where, little,*
“ *foolish,*

“*foolish, fluttering thing,*” &c. from the
 “*Padlock*.—She did; and, when she
 “came to that part,

“*Where, little wanton, would you be*
 “*Half so happy as with me?*”

a gentleman present cried out aloud,
 “No where, by G—d;” which made
 her and the rest laugh so much, that
 she could not go on for some time.
 “No more of your declarations, Cap-
 “tain,” said the Admiral; “let’s have
 “the song.” “Flesh and blood,” re-
 turned he, “*will speak.*” This caused
 a fresh laugh. However, having finished
 her song, a sentiment was given, and
 she called for another. After a little
 time was spent in singing, some pro-

posed cards, and others a dance; and Mrs. Baddeley was asked to dance a minuet. But she, who was accomplished in every thing else, was but an indifferent dancer; and, declining, I was applied to. The young gentleman who asked me being from the North, I inquired whether he could dance a Scotch reel. He replied, "Yes:" we therefore proposed to finish the minuet with a reel. My partner danced exceedingly well, and of course we made no bad figure—All present were delighted. The Admiral then returned me thanks, saying, he was ashamed to intrude; but, as he was sure a person who danced a reel so well, could also dance a hornpipe, requested, if I could, to oblige him

him with one. I did, and to the tune of Nancy Dawson; which charmed them all. From this we proceeded to country-dances, and danced till tea-time. After tea we had more singing: In short, our day was most agreeably spent: but, just before we thought of going, a story came out that damped our spirits. "If you remember, ladies," said Captain Knight (who was Captain of Admiral Spry's ship), "you asked, "in the time of the engagement, what "occasioned a scream you heard: I "have just been told that melancholy "tale by the Surgeon. A pretty boy on "board, belonging to one of the Lieu- "tenants, had done some trifling thing "to offend his master; who running

M 3

" after

“ after him, in order to chastise him,
“ the poor boy, in order to escape,
“ made an attempt to jump across the
“ copper, in which meat for the crew
“ was boiling, in hopes to get behind
“ it: but, in his hurry, he fell into it,
“ and was taken out with all the flesh
“ burnt from the soles of his feet, and
“ part of his body. Such a sight has
“ never been seen on board before. In
“ this miserable state the poor lad
“ was wrapped in an oiled sheet, for
“ his face was equally scalded, and
“ taken to the Hospital, where he lived
“ in torture till within this half hour.”

This threw a cloud on all our merri-
ment; and, as it grew late, we begged
leave to go a-shore. The barge was

accordingly

accordingly ordered; and the Admiral, apologizing to the company for leaving them, in order to escort the ladies and his friends on shore, accompanied us there, and returned.

The next day, Admiral Spry and Sir Thomas Mills breakfasted with us; and, after breakfast, we walked round the town. In our walk we met with Captain Fawkner, with his brother Everard. He noticed us, and bowed; and, after he had passed us, followed us up and down, gazing occasionally at Mrs. Baddeley, and she at him, but did not offer to join us. Finding this, I complained of being weary, and wished to return home: however, as she passed Captain Fawkner, she said aloud to the Admiral, that he
might

might hear, "I have taken places in
"the boxes to-night for us all; and
"we will go to the play." After accompanying the Admiral to his boat, we returned home with Sir Thomas; but he, being engaged to dinner, took his leave for half an hour, to dress; saying, he would attend us during the review, and to the play in the evening. Mrs. Baddeley was pleased at this; as it gave her an opportunity of seeing Captain Fawkner, who made his appearance as soon as Sir Thomas Mills had turned his back. He flew to her, kissed her hand with rapture, and said, "Cannot I see you to-day?" She told him not; as the party she came down with would be with her the whole day, and accompany her to the play at night.

Captain

Captain Fawkner said he should be at the play, and took his leave. No sooner had Sir Thomas left us, to go to dinner, but Captain Fawkner, who certainly must have watched his going and coming, came to us, and dined with us. He solicited he might see her the next day, if it was but for ten minutes; and she promised to let him know, if possible, whether she could see him. When they parted, they looked at each other like lovers, unwilling to separate; and, when I told her that I noticed it, she said he was so good, so handsome, so sweet, that an angel must love such a man.

Before the Theatre was opened, the Admiral and Sir Thomas called, and
took

took us the distance of five miles on the London road, to drink tea with a friend, whose family consisted of him, his lady, and three daughters, women grown. They pressed us to stay the evening; but the play was our excuse, and we came away, promising to dine with them in our way to town. Entering the box at the Theatre, we found Captain Fawkner. Mrs. Baddeley sat down as near to him as she could; but it was not noticed by our company, as they had no suspicion. Presently came in Captain Fawkner's brother, who sat down by him. Mrs. Baddeley's attention was engrossed by him who sat near her, and she took no notice of the play. She proposed, on our return, to set off for London the day

day but one after, as she designed shortly to go to Oxford, to see Lord North installed Chancellor. "How came you," said I, "to think of this; and who is "to be of your party?" She told me, Lord Palmerston, and Mr. Montagu, son of Lord Sandwich, who was then, with many others, to have a Doctor's degree. This being settled, Admiral Spry said he would acquaint his friend to-morrow morning, and would accompany us there the next day to dinner; and that to-morrow, before dinner, he would attend us to Gosport, to show us the place. In the morning, she went and invited Captain Fawcner to breakfast, much against my inclination. She used various means, and tried several ways, to
get

get me to leave them; but, being determined to the contrary, all her plans were ineffectual. At last the pencil went to work, and they were rude enough to write and answer each other before me; but I took no notice of it. The time drew near now, when we expected Sir Thomas and the Admiral to call and accompany us to Gosport; but she complained of a head-ache, and said she could not go. Accordingly she took her leave of Captain Fawkner, and we excused ourselves with the Admiral. This gave me an opportunity to prepare for our journey. Mrs. Baddeley continued ill till six, when I went to her; and she then, brought as it were to reflexion, laughed, and threw her arms

arms round my neck, and thanked me for my conduct to her in the morning, in not leaving her alone with Mr. Fawkner.

One o'clock next day was the hour fixed for our leaving Portsmouth, in order to dine with Admiral Spry's friend. Mrs. Baddeley, however, was up and dressed by nine, when Captain Fawkner called upon her again, to inquire how she did, and hoped he did not intrude: his pencil told him not; for he called on her by appointment yesterday. The few hours she had to spare, passed away in sighs and looks; for, as I never left them, they had no opportunity of exchanging words, but in general conversation.

versation. The coachman coming to the door, he took his leave. In a few minutes came our friends, and we set off to dinner, as engaged; where we were elegantly entertained; and, the whole family being musical, we had a concert after it. When Mrs. Baddeley sung, the old lady, who was unacquainted with her situation in life, was so charmed with it, that she said it was a misfortune to all lovers of music, that she was independent; or she might otherwise make a fortune in London, at the Theatres. At this, we could scarce keep our countenances. They pressed us to stay all night, the old lady saying she was determined to have an angel with her one night (for so she

she called Mrs. Baddeley). We staid; and the next morning they persuaded us to accompany them to several gentlemen's seats in the neighbourhood, which they should take a pleasure, they said, in showing us. Saying, in my ride, that I was born in Westminster, the old lady asked me if I knew any thing of the widow of Mr. Hughes, late flater to his Majesty, and whether she was living; telling me she was a near relation of hers; that they were brought up at the same school, and that she was a very valuable woman. "Yes, "Madam," said I; "that lady is living." "Before you go, then," returned she, "I will trouble you with "a line." "I will deliver it," said I,

with pleasure; for I have the honour
“to be one of that lady’s daughters.”
At this, she caught me round the neck,
shed tears of joy, and kissed me. On
our return to her house, she made me,
if possible, more welcome than before;
and there was no quitting it. She
made us stay with her four days; and
promised, on our departure, to bring
her family to town, and come and spend
a week with us. During our stay, we
had the Admiral and Sir Thomas Mills
with us every day; and the Admiral
was delighted, that he was so fortunate
as to bring us together. We preserved
our acquaintance with this lady till she
died, which was some years after.

On

On our leaving this family, we made the best of our way to town, and reached it next morning at two o'clock. We there found letters and messages in plenty; but were too tired to read them, or hear more than that we must set out for Oxford in two days. Lord Palmerston had called more than ten times, and was fearful we should not return in time, and begged we would let him know as soon as we arrived.

We did not rise the next day till noon, when we sent to Lord Palmerston, who came immediately; said we must send to Oxford to provide beds, for there was so much company going, that beds would be let for five guineas

a night; that Mrs. Sheridan was to sing there; and that what we should see would be very different from the spectacle at Portsmouth, yet would equally entertain us; and that we must set off, the day but one after, with our own horses, for all the horses on the road were bespoke; and, if we did not send off that night, it would be ten to one whether we should get a bed. We therefore sent off one of our servants express, and gave him orders to procure us a lodging. His Lordship requested a corner in our carriage; and we could not refuse him.

If there was any further connexion between Lord Palmerston and Mrs. Baddeley,

Baddeley, than what I was acquainted with, it was between themselves; she never acquainted me with it: and, as she was too communicative at times for her own happiness, I should suppose she would have acquainted me with this, as she did with her other secrets. All I know is, that his Lordship's behaviour to her was always consistent with the friend and gentleman; and his politeness at our house did him, in my sight, great honour. He was not, however, sparing of his commendations of her; and, as he was then an unmarried man, he might be permitted to pass his compliments as he thought proper.

Detero

Determined to make the best appearance at Oxford, as we had done at Portsmouth, Mrs. Baddeley had some new clothes made up for the occasion, with a great deal of fashionable millinery. She said her diamond necklaces would make a beautiful band round her bosom; all she wanted was a bow for her breast, and one for each sleeve; which she said she could hire of Mr. Bellas, the jeweller, in Pall-mall, for about fourteen pounds; and hoped I would approve of it. I opposed it with saying, that, put the expence of it out of the question, the imprudence should be sufficient to prevent her; that nature had been bountiful to her; that she wanted no such additional ornaments;

ments; and that she would be as much, if not more, admired without them. I told her, that vanity and extravagance were pointed at more than she thought of; that a less expensive dress would be considered as the produce of her own professional industry; but, decorated with diamonds, as she proposed, the world would only sneer at her, and cry, "Look at Mrs. Baddeley! Take notice of her diamonds! See what a quantity she has!" "And how did she get them?" says another. "They are only the rewards of prostitution." "And what then?" returned she, angrily. "I care not for any of their remarks; I *will* have the bows, and nothing shall prevent it. My person is my own,

“ own, and I will do with it as I please :”
and, growing still more enraged at the
dread of a disappointment, she conti-
nued, “ Nay, I will do more than ever
“ I have done yet ; for I will not be
“ debarred from *seeing* who I please,
“ and *doing* with them what I please—
“ I will have twenty times the quantity
“ of diamonds I have.” At this, she
burst out into tears of rage, and sent
her servant off for the diamonds she
wanted. I let her go on uninterrupted ;
and, when she had finished, she ran out
and bolted herself up in another room.
In short, I never saw her in such a pas-
sion before ; and found from this, that
I could only keep her within bounds by
soft reasoning, persuasion, and giving
way

way to her folly in many things. When Mr. Bellas came with the diamonds, and she had agreed with him for the hire, she brought them up, and laid them down before me, with a degree of triumph, saying, “ Now I have begun, I
“ am determined to go on;—I will
“ send for Mr. Fawkner, and Mr. Storer,
“ and every one I think proper; and I
“ will do with them as I please.” This declared and studied opposition to every thing I thought right, I must own, nettled me; and I replied, with firmness,
“ *Do*,—send for them,—pursue your
“ own destruction;—but it must be
“ alone, and not with me, I most solemnly assure you. I have long been
“ a slave to your folly, but I will now
“ end

“ end it. See then who you will, and
“ act as you think proper: but, as I
“ have too much regard for you to see
“ it, I will study my own happiness,
“ and leave you, till time brings you to
“ reflexion. Put none of *my* things up
“ for Oxford, for I will not go; and as
“ this house seems to suit you, I will let
“ it to you; for I am resolved to leave
“ you this day; determined you shall
“ have it no longer in your power to
“ treat me with such unkindness, when
“ my conduct and advice to you merit
“ your best thanks and gratitude. I will
“ go this instant to my mother’s, where
“ I will dine; and I will sleep at my
“ sister’s: and, to-morrow, if you will
“ come to a settlement, I will give you
“ seven

“ seven years to pay me what you owe
 “ me; and, to convince you I do not
 “ part in enmity, I will accommodate
 “ you with any money you may now
 “ want; and any service I can do you
 “ at a distance, you may command.”

At this I took my hat to put it on; when she flew to me, took me fast into her arms, and cried and sobbed so much, that it made my heart ache: she then fell on her knees, begged my pardon, and declared, if I left her, she would stab herself the next minute.—I told her, coolly, that I had made up my mind upon the occasion, and would ever be her friend through life; but, that her declarations had really shocked me, and that I could not continue with

her under them, and begged she would not hold me. She was in such an agitation that alarmed me; said she should die, if I did not relieve her mind by promising not to leave her. To quiet her, I at last said that I would not. She then blessed me a thousand times, still holding me in her arms; and, when I found her agitation a little over, I said, "Now, if you please, we will have a little serious conversation." She replied, "I can hear *nothing* till you again promise not to leave me. Do this; be friends; and I will submit to any thing." I then promised I would not leave her for the present.— "That word, *present*, my dear, dear Steele," said she, "I do not like.—
" Give

“Give me your hand.” I did. “Now,” continued she, “forgive my vile temper, and I will never more offend you. I know too well your good wishes for me, and therefore intreat you to pass over, in oblivion, what has happened to-day; and I will never give you cause to complain of me again. There is not a servant in this house that is not wretched on account of this quarrel; for they value you much more than me; and I am convinced, when they know we are friends, they will be as happy as before.” Thus was her foolish obstinacy, for the time, got the better of:—we kissed each other, and all was to be forgotten.

We then began to pack up our things for our journey: (this was in the year 1772 :) and when she put up her diamonds, she threw them into her box, with a, “Curse on these baubles!—I wish
“the devil had them all before I saw
“them!” I took no notice of this, but went on till we had finished; and gave orders for the carriage, &c. to be ready the next morning at six o’clock.

Lord Palmerston being with us at six, we set out together; reached Oxford in the evening, and found our servant had provided us a good lodging, at the expence of five guineas for one week. His Lordship promised to conduct us to the Theatre, the next day, but wished,
before

before he left us, to speak to Mrs. Baddeley in private, having a secret to communicate, which respected her only, and which could be intrusted only to her private ear. I accordingly left the room; and his secret, as she afterwards told me, was only to request the grant of that favour which she had so imprudently granted to others; and his behaviour, she said, was so ungentlemanlike, that she was sure the whole house must have known it, and she was fearful it would get all over Oxford. However, says she, as I promised his Lordship, upon his apologizing, that I would not acquaint you with it, I hope you will not notice it. I promised her I would not, but that, after we left Oxford,

ford, I should admit no more of his visits. Till this transaction I entertained the highest opinion of his Lordship, and thought him a good man; but I find I am subject to the weakness common to my sex, namely, to think better of mankind than they deserve.

His Lordship attended us to the Theatre next morning, and procured us very good seats. It was presently full; and all the company being full-dressed, it had a very splendid appearance. Lord Palmerston now left us, to attend Lord North, who soon entered the Theatre robed, and in this dress so much resembled the King, that, had they been together, few would have known them apart:

The

The same reason that I did not lay before my readers, the ceremonies, and all the particulars of the spectacle at Portsmouth, held good with respect to that at Oxford; that the whole has been already given to the public through the news-papers. All I shall observe is, that we were well entertained for three days, and that Lord North had as much attention and respect paid him, on the occasion, by persons of all ranks, as was shown to his Majesty in his visit to Portsmouth; and his Lordship, in return, expressed every mark of gratitude in his power.

An odd circumstance occurred at the Theatre, that shows how necessary it is
to

to be guarded in our conversation in public, with persons we are unacquainted with. When Mrs. Sheridan had sung one of her best songs, a lady, who sat next me, asked me whether I did not think she sung well: I replied, "Wonderfully; that I had heard much of her, but had never seen her before." She then said, "Mrs. Sheridan is the first English singer of the age." I begged leave to differ with her in that, as I was partial to Mrs. Baddeley. At this instant, Lord Palmerston, who was behind, had joined us, and who had heard our conversation, tapped me on the shoulder, and whispered, that the person I was talking to was Mrs. Linley, Mrs. Sheridan's mother.

ther. I was in myself sorry for what I had said; but, when I considered the vanity of the old lady, I thought she deserved the reply.

Lord Palmerston accompanied us, during our stay at Oxford, round the Colleges, and other places, except the last day, when his engagements would not permit him. On this last day, Mrs. Baddeley wished to see a certain library again. Whilst there, we saw several Oxonians; one of whom fixed his eyes on Mrs. Baddeley the whole time: she also was particularly struck with him, and said to me in a whisper, “Look, “ Mrs. Steele, what a beauty of a man! “ He is even handsomer than Captain “ Fawkner!”

“Fawkner!” On her saying this, I was for going away, but she would not, continuing to gaze at him, under a pretence of viewing the library. Presently came in Mr. Montagu, a son of Lord Sandwich, who said he had been hunting us these two hours, as he wished to pay his respects to us, and show us the Colleges. • We walked round the place again, with Mr. Montagu; and this young Oxonian followed us every where, till we reached our lodgings, where Mr. Montagu left us, with saying he should take the liberty of calling on us in London. When he was gone, Mrs. Baddeley observed, that of all the handsome men she ever saw in her life, this young Oxonian was the most beautiful; and
asked

asked me if I took notice of him. "Hang him," said I, "I did not look at him." "Not look at him!" returned she, "I wish you had, for I shall never forget him!" Presently came a footman with a letter, requesting leave to deliver it into Mrs. Baddeley's own hand. He was ordered up, and delivering it, begged an answer. Her reply was, "If it requires an answer, I will send one." This letter was from the Oxonian, and was as follows:

"Dear Madam,

"Pardon me for declaring I am
"so much enamoured with your beauty,
"that I know not how to express my
"heart farther, than that I am the most
"wretched

“ wretched of all men on earth, sup-
“ posing myself not worthy your no-
“ tice ; yet I am emboldened to ask
“ permission to show you the College
“ the honourable gentleman omitted
“ this day to do. If I am indulged in
“ this request, I shall think it the hap-
“ piest day of my life. Your answer by
“ my servant, will be esteemed an ob-
“ ligation to one who subscribes him-
“ self Your obedient humble servant,
“ Joseph Gill.

“ To Mrs. Baddeley.”

Though Mrs. Baddeley wished to
send an answer, none was sent; for, if
possible, she was more than happy at
the receipt of this letter, and read it over
and

and over again.—“Burn his nonsense,” said I. Presently came the servant again, with his master’s compliments, begging the favour of an answer. I sent word down, that the letter required none. He then said that he had a note to leave: our servant brought it up. This letter was similar to the other. Mrs. Baddeley saying she must give some answer, ordered the servant to come up. He came, and she said, “Young man, make
 “ my compliments to your master, and
 “ tell him I saw every part of the Col-
 “ lege I wished to see, the first day I
 “ came to Oxford; but, notwithstanding
 “ this, I am much obliged to him for
 “ his politeness on the occasion.” The servant bowed and went. “Well,” said
 Vol. III. P she

she to me, "I shall never hear any
" more of him ; so don't make yourself
" uneasy." I then proposed going to
town the next day ; but she wished to
see Blenheim before she went ; and
seeing this gentleman pass by, as I found
afterwards, she would go out and buy
some gloves. We were no sooner in
the shop, than in he comes to buy
gloves also. He spoke to her, hoped
she was well, and reddened like fire ;
she coloured likewise. He hoped, he
said, she would pardon the liberty he
took, in writing to her ; not knowing
she had seen the College, till his servant
brought him back an answer. When
we left the shop, he handed us down the
steps, and requested Mrs. Baddeley to
indulge

indulge him with a minute or two's conversation. She told him she could not ; that she was near home, where he could not be admitted ; and then asked him how far it was to Blenheim, as she designed going there the next day. After telling us, he reluctantly took his leave, sighing.—When we returned to our lodgings, she remarked, that he was a well-bred young gentleman, and was much handsomer when near than when at a distance ; and that she would, if she dared, without offending me, have invited him to tea. I told her I saw through her design in asking how far it was to Blenheim, and would lay ten guineas he would be there. She assured me

she had no view in what she asked him, and was sure he would not be there.

Lord Palmerston called in the evening, and would have attended us to town; but, on saying we meant to go to Blenheim, he was sorry it was out of his power to wait on us there, as business of consequence called him away; and if she was determined not to go, he would leave Oxford immediately. On asking him whether it was not dangerous travelling by night, he said no; he never carried much money with him, and therefore was regardless: then putting a piece of paper on the table, he said, her horses and servants would cost her something to town; and he begged he might leave that, to enable her men to pay

pay the turnpikes. He then took his leave and departed. When he was gone, we looked at the paper, and found in it a fifty pound bank-note. Mrs. Baddeley observed, that it was a poor present, but every little was of service.

We went to Blenheim the next day the seat of the Duke of Marlborough ; and, as I expected, we there met with Mr. Gill. He was well dressed, and came up and paid his respects to us ; hoped we would pardon the liberty he took in coming there, but, as he heard us say we meant to see that place, he would not miss the opportunity of making his bow to us, if he found us disengaged ; and, thank God, he had that happiness.

piness. I saw she was pleased; she told him he was very polite; and he accompanied us round the place; and I took notice that she prolonged the time of viewing it, as much as she could. She asked him if there was any other place near there worth seeing: he told her Lord Abington had a seat within five miles; if she would permit him, he would attend her there. Accordingly she consented, said her servant might take his horse, and he might, if he pleased, get into the coach; he was as happy at this, as a man could be; and she seemed not less so. He began presently to talk of love, but Mrs. Baddeley, first looking at *him*, and next at *me*, put a stop to it; though her eyes and
his

his both talked to each other. This young gentleman was about one or two and twenty years of age, sensible and clever; and it was not to be wondered at, that he should be smitten with her beauty, which had always attracted hundreds.

When we reached this house we were upon the road to see (and which was a very long five miles to it), it was not worth viewing. However she did not think so, nor would have thought so had it been a cottage only, as it gave her more of his company. As soon as we saw the house, it was necessary to bait the horses. The coachman was ordered to stop at the best inn he could find; and it was settled that we should dine.

After

After dinner and coffee, we proposed returning to Oxford; but the coachman said the horses were not well, for two of them would not eat their corn, and that they should be blooded. Mr. Gill went out to look at them, and was of the same opinion, and thought if they were bled, and a warm mash given them, they would be fit to travel the next day. This sickness of the horses, I have reason to believe, was all a pretence, and settled between Mr. Gill and the coachman; for Mrs. Baddeley said, when Mr. Gill went into the stable, “If I could get a divorce from Mr. Baddeley, and this young man would marry me, I would take him for life, and live contented in any situation he could

“ could place me in ; so as you, my dear
 “ Steele, would promise to be with
 “ me.” I told her, it would be the
 summit of my wishes to see her the wife
 of a man who would make her happy.
 At Mr. Gill’s return, we found there
 was no getting further that night ; and
 therefore determined to stay till next
 morning, and he continued with us.
 We passed the evening cheerfully ; Mrs.
 Baddeley sung, and delighted him be-
 yond measure, and the time slipped away
 fast. At supper-time he took his leave,
 and promised to be with us the next
 morning at breakfast. When he was
 gone, she ran on wildly of his pretty
 behaviour, his insinuating address, and
 his engaging manners ; and marry
 him

him she swore she would, if it was possible, and leave all mankind for him. She told me, that whilst I was writing to my husband, she had learned from him, that he was the second son of a gentleman at Reading, who had an independent fortune of one thousand pounds a year; that he was brought up for a clergyman, having a living promised him, which he could live happy on, with what his father could afford to give him: "So," continued she, "you see how inquisitive I have been; and, as he has declared that he loves me, if I can any ways obtain a divorce, I will marry him, for I love him beyond description." "Observe, now," said I, "how childishly you act, and how easily

“ easily you are to be led aside.” “ No-
 “ thing,” replied she, “ could make
 “ me swerve from him. If I married
 “ him, I would be faithful to him; and
 “ depend upon it, I will never suffer
 “ him to take a liberty with me, unless
 “ he *does* marry me. And what can
 “ I do better?” “ Many things,” re-
 “ plied I, “ as I have often repeated.”—
 “ Yes,” said she, “ follow my profes-
 “ sion!—I hate my profession; but, had
 “ I this angel of a man, if he thought
 “ proper, I would pursue this profession
 “ to help him.” “ Stuff,” said I,
 “ you are as changeable as the wind,
 “ and, I am convinced, would be tired
 “ of him in a week.” However, I fell
 in with her, and thought, if her plan
 could

could be brought about, it might not
be a bad one; and, on my saying so,
she cried, “My dear Steele, if you can
“assist me in this, God will bless you
“for it, and so shall I; as I should then
“sit down contented and happy for the
“remainder of my life, and would de-
“spise every dissipated man of fashion;
“for, with all their money, all their
“splendor, and all their fancied hap-
“piness, their life is a wretched one,
“and their round of dissipation a tire-
“some labour. And as to one in my
“unfortunate situation, there is no
“living with them, without following
“their follies; and if one does not make
“an appearance equal with them, they
“think nothing of us; and if one
“does,

“ *does*, it is called extravagance.” She then begged I would not prevent her seeing Mr. Gill; for she had no other view in it, than to get him for a husband. I asked her how she could obtain a divorce. She replied, By suing Mr. Baddeley for living in adultery. She had been told she could do this, and she would make the attempt.

In the morning, hearing a horse come into the yard full-speed, she jumped out of bed, and said, she was sure it was Mr. Gill; and the chamber-maid, entering the room shortly after, said, the gentleman was come, and breakfast was ready. On our coming down, after the proper compliments had passed,

we inquired how our horses were; and were told, not much better, and that a farrier should be sent for. A farrier came, and said they had received a violent chill, and had caught cold; and, if they were taken out of the warm stable that day, they would die; but that the next day, with care, they might be able to proceed on their journey. I still thought this was a scheme of Mr. Gill's, or indeed for the good of the house, and of course went into the stable myself; and, as far as I could judge, they were ill; for they trembled exceedingly: so it was agreed, then, to stay the event of the morrow. I called, however, for the bill, left the young gentleman (for I found he had ordered

ordered

ordered it) should pay it. I told the landlady, if he asked any thing about it, to say it was discharged by the ladies. Telling Mrs. Baddeley what I had done, she thanked me, saying she would not suffer him to pay any thing. Mr. Gill presently came in, and said, “ Ladies, I am so much ashamed of
“ myself, that I scarce know how to
“ see you. I went just now to pay the
“ bill, and found you had done it.
“ Pray oblige me, by permitting me
“ to return you the money.” Mrs. Baddeley said, “ Not a word, Sir,
“ more of that, if you please: I con-
“ sider you as a visitor; and it is a rule
“ with me never to accept a favour of
“ this kind, even from my best friend.”

He bowed, and begged pardon, and hoped he had given no offence. We then put on our hats, for a walk round the village; and seeing a poor man with a harp, Mrs. Baddeley ordered him to the inn; found he played well, and knew almost every song she could sing: of course the morning was spent delightfully; for she sung a variety, he accompanying her, and kept him upwards of two hours; then giving him five shillings, she bad him go into the kitchen and eat something. The poor man, at the sight of the five shillings, cried with joy, saying his wife was that day delivered of a child on the road, and he had it now in his power to give her some comfort. On being asked how far

far

far she was off, he said three miles, describing the place, where a poor cottager had taken her in. On this, Mr. Gill and I gave him half-a-crown each; and Mrs. Baddeley said, “ Instead
“ of staying to eat your dinner, take a
“ bottle of brandy for your wife, and
“ make all the haste to her you can.” The poor man fell on his knees, and blessed us. Mrs. Baddeley, from the various impositions she had met with, doubted the truth of this man’s story; and Mr. Gill, being of the same way of thinking, said, if she chose to inquire further into it, her man might take his horse and go there; for, as I talked of going to see her, should the fellow have told a lie, I shall save myself the trou-

ble of a journey. The coachman was dispatched, and found the woman, who had been delivered that morning, laid with her infant on some clean straw, with a few things only to cover her. He said she was a pretty woman, looked very ill, and asked his charity; that he gave her two shillings, saying his heart ached at the sight; that he overtook her husband on the road, walking as fast as he could; but that he passed him, and took no notice of him. On hearing this tale, we sent for the mistress of the house, told her the story, and begged she would inform us where we could get her a bed. She replied, that her hostler had a bed, a couple of blankets, and a rug, to dispose of, and that

that a guinea would purchase them; and, as we were so well disposed, she would send her a pair of old sheets. Hearing there was a bedstead in the cottage, the bed was bought, and sent off instantly in a cart. The landlady sent one of her maids with it, and also the warming-pan, and ordered her to see the poor woman comfortably put to bed. Whilst we were at dinner, the maid returned, telling us how happy we had made the whole family, and that a thousand blessings were returned us; and that our servant, unknown to us, had taken her a bottle of gin, which he paid for out of his own pocket. The mistress said, she had looked out a few old things of a sort, for the woman and
her

her child, which she would send her; that she mentioned her situation and distress to some ladies in the house, who, among them, had given her to the amount of a guinea; and that an out-rider to a tradesman in London, then in the kitchen, had paid her for two gallons of caudle, which she was also to send her.

As we were going to tea, the poor harper returned, and began playing without the house, but in our hearing; and sung, as he played, the following song:

It is not wealth, it is not birth,

Can value to the Soul convey;

Minds possess superior wealth,

Which Time, nor Chance, can take away,

&c.

When

When he had done, he came in and returned us so many thanks, that it rather distressed us; it being a blessing to a generous mind to do good unnoticed, and unrewarded but by the actions done. He played a good while, and we bad him come again in the morning. When he went, he took home a variety of things which the mistress of the house had looked up for him; and Mrs. Baddeley gave her servant half-a-guinea as a reward for his humanity. Mr. Gill, in the evening, said he had a little business to execute for his father, about four miles off, and hoped we would excuse him for an hour. He went; and his business was to see this poor woman, and order her husband to call on him
at

at Oxford the next morning at six, for it was but five miles from this place, and he would give him some clothes; and, when his wife was able to travel, to bring her to Oxford, and take a lodging for her; and he would, among his friends, provide for him, and find some employ for her; and, giving her a guinea, he left her. He was soon back, but took no notice to us where he had been. Thus was a humane act done, and, perhaps, a poor creature's life saved, at a little expence; and how many such like acts might be done, to serve our fellow-creatures, if so much money was not badly dissipated!

Mrs.

Mrs. Baddeley was very cheerful the whole day; said she did not intend that Mr. Baddeley should be long her master, for she would soon get rid of him. "How?" said Mr. Gill; "By a pistol?" "No," returned she; "I will sue for a divorce." "That done," replied he, "was I possessed of ten thousand pounds a year, I would lay it all at your feet;" saying that he should be happy to marry her, if she was not possessed of a shilling. "But," continued he, "this is a hopeless wish; for, as there are so many great men your admirers, I should stand but little chance." Mrs. Baddeley smiled, and said she thought him a good young man, and wished him to
continue

continue so, and to turn his thoughts to some woman more worthy of him. It now growing late, she bad him think of returning to Oxford, as she should soon be going to bed. He then ordered his horse, and took his leave, saying he would be with us again at nine to breakfast. When he was gone, she was incessant in his praises ; and said she would move heaven and earth to get divorced, and marry him ; for she found she loved him more than she could express.

Morning came, and Mr. Gill at his appointed time. During breakfast the harper came again. Mrs. Baddeley went out to him, and on her return said, there was a gentleman now in the yard, playing

playing on the harp; I went out, and found it to be the poor man, very well clothed; and on my asking to whom he was obliged for them, he said, the gentleman that was with us; and then told us what he had further done, as I have before related. We gave the man a guinea more, and sent him off.

Finding our horses able to travel, we went for Oxford; where discharging our lodging, we continued our road for London, designing to stop at the house I took near Henley, to see my family, who were then in it. Mr. Gill begged to accompany us, and we took him in the coach. We reached the place by dark, and continued there three days; and Mr.

Gill with us. I shall not say what happened under my roof, at this place ; for I mean, some time or other, to write my own history ; which has been full of adventures, though not of amours, and will entertain the public greatly. I shall not say, therefore, too much of myself here.

On our departure from this place, Mr. Gill would have accompanied us to town ; but Mrs. Baddeley objected to it, and said, in her situation, it would be improper. He then requested leave to wait on us in town, which she consenting to, he took his leave, and we pursued our way to Salt-hill, where we met with Mr. John Damer. He insisted on our dining with him, which we
agreed

agreed to, provided he would let us send the coach to Windsor to fetch the lady at whose house we had all been, the last time we saw him. He consented, and she soon joined us. A very elegant and expensive dinner we had: when over, she pressed us to go home with her, and sleep there; and asked Mr. Damer to be of the party; but he politely declined, as he was obliged, he said, to go back to town on business; for he had left no orders with his clerks, and his shopmen would not know how to act without him. "I did not understand, Sir," said she, "that you was in business: "in what profession, pray?" He said he was a linen-draper. We looked grave.—She then requested his address,

saying she would be a customer to him. Pen and ink were accordingly called for; and he wrote down "George Number, " at St. Merry-ask, linen-draper;" saying he should be proud of her orders, and she should be well served.—"Oh," said the lady, "I know St. Mary Axe very well." This past; and after tea, we took our leave of Mr. Damer, and accompanied our friend to Windsor. In our way there, she observed that linen-drapers must get a vast profit on their goods, to enable them to live in such a style, for she was sure the dinner did not cost less than ten pounds. "Indeed," said she, "by " his manner and polite attention, I took " him for a nobleman, till he gave me " his direction.—Nay," continued she, " he

“ he was extravagant; for, though we
 “ drank but two bottles of wine, I saw
 “ six opened. This is the way inn-keep-
 “ ers get rich!” We could no longer
 refrain from laughing, and told her that
 the gentleman had been joking with her;
 that he was the honourable John Damer,
 eldest son of Lord Milton.—” How stu-
 “ pid,” said our friend, “ must I have
 “ been then! For I recollect well now,
 “ when he was at our house, that you told
 “ me he was a nobleman’s son; and as to
 “ his direction at St. Merry Ask, I only
 “ conceived him untaught, and that he
 “ did not know how to spell, of course
 “ took it for St. Mary Axe, near Cheap-
 “ side. How will he laugh at my igno-
 “ rance! I never was so taken in, in my

“life. How will you divert yourselves at
“my expence, when you meet him again!
“No,” said I, “he will think no more
“of it, it is his usual fun.” For, when-
ever he came to our house, found us not
at home, and saw a strange servant, he
always left the name of some tradesman,
and said he brought a bill for payment.

We slept that night at Windsor; and,
on our return to London, met with a
parcel of Gypsies, who asked to tell our
fortune. We stopped the coach; and a
woman, who undertook it, ran on with
a parcel of nonsense, that is not worth
repeating; however, it made us laugh,
and kept up our spirits, till we got home,
where we heard Lord Melbourne had
been

been twice, wondering what had become of us; Lord Palmerston, once; Mr. Conway, three times; Mr. Montagu, Lord Cranbraft, the Marquis of Carmarthen, the Duke of Northumberland's gentleman, Lord Pigot, Sir Thomas Mills, Admiral Spry, and many others.

Lord Melbourne was very inquisitive, and feemed much hurt that Mrs. Baddeley could give no better account of her journey. Who went with her to Oxford? Where did fhe go from Oxford? And many other questions. She told his Lordfhip that fhe fpent her time with my family, in the neighbourhood of Henley, and the like. "Well," faid he, "I muft leave you again; for Sir
" Mathew

“ Mathew Featherstone, my Lady’s
“ father, is ill, and at my house at
“ Brocket-hall; and I must go down
“ to him.” He soon after left us, and
Mrs. Baddeley was happy he was gone.

Having some money of Mrs. Baddeley’s in my possession; lest she should be tempted by any new whim to lay it out improperly, I thought it best to pay it away, where it was owing, and proposed settling with the builder, for the additions he had made to Hammer-smith-house, which Mrs. Baddeley designed to pay: and when I looked over the bills, I was amazed; they came to seven hundred and fifty-nine pounds, eleven shillings and eight pence. My
surprise

surprise at this, made me fly to her to tell her of it. She received the intelligence with great unconcern; said we had a lease of it, and that it was now a good house; and I must set it down to the article of her extravagance: but, that I must not pay away the money I had, till she got more; for Lord Melbourne's expence about his house in Piccadilly, had occasioned his not being so bountiful to her as he had been. "However," added she, "if he does not think of us soon, you must remind him." I replied, that I should not, as he had not kept his word with me, though he had been bountiful to her. His Lordship promised to pay my rent, and had not done even that. Mrs. Baddeley said that she

would pay the rent herself. I told her, in future, when she wished any thing from Lord Melbourne, the best way would be to write a line, and I would give it him. To this she acquiesced; and I then told her, I would call in all the bills where any thing was owing, and try if we could not get them paid. Expences for house-keeping, and other daily expences, were paid weekly.

On calling in the bills, I found them as follow; and the whole to have been run up in the course of three years.

	£.	s.	d.
Miss Brace, milliner, by balance	120	0	0
Mrs. Bowen, ditto	218	18	10
Carried over	338	18	10
			Brought

MRS. SOPHIA BADDELEY. 191

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over	338	18	10
Mrs. Titherfon, milliner, by balance	180	11	0
Mr. Price, ditto, by balance of 700l.	230	0	0
Mr. King, mercer, by balance of more than 1200l.	-	290	0 0
Mr. Titterfon, woollen-draper	-	40	10 0
Mr. Burnell, filver-lace man	-	30	10 0
Mr. Campbell, coach-maker	-	200	19 0
Mr. Dyford, and Mr. Clark, shoe- makers	-	20	14 0
Mr. Rolson, hatter	-	29	10 0
Mr. Evans, linen-draper	-	140	0 0
Mr. King, hoop-maker	-	8	10 0
Mr. Tutt, trimming-broker	-	18	12 0
Mr. Jeffereys, jeweller, by balance	180	12	0
Mrs. Whitelock, mantua-maker	-	10	14 0
Mrs. Humphries, hosier and glover	20	11	0
Perfumers Bills	-	30	19 0
Builders Bills	-	759	11 8
Carried over	2531	2	6
Brought			

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over	2531	2	6
Stable rent	-	-	18 0 0
Cornfactor, in balance	-	-	48 0 0
Hay and straw	-	-	10 0 0
Farriers bills, in balance	-	-	10 0 0
Florist in ditto	-	-	18 0 0
China-man, in ditto	-	-	10 10 0
Flambeaux for one year	-	-	20 12 0
	£.2666	4	6

These bills were only in balance of more than eight thousand pounds, incurred in the time, without any expences of house-keeping, furniture, and the principal part of her diamonds, wages, journeys, expences at public places, and horses. Though Lord Melbourne did not enable me to pay the above, Mrs. Baddeley did not abate in her expences; but

but rather increased them for some time, till a stop was put to it, which the reader will hereafter be informed of. My mind was very uneasy on account of this great sum owing; for, till I had called the bills together, I was not aware of their amount. On my showing them to Mrs. Baddeley, she laughed, and said they were only a milk-score to Lord Melbourne: but I told her, it was my opinion he would never pay them. "If he won't," returned she, "I will pay them myself."

She now began to think of her divorce; and I advised her to consult Mr. Dunning, late Lord Ashburton. She went to his house, and had his opinion;

but he would take nothing from her. He told her he had doubts of her success, for reasons she must excuse his giving; but there was a chance, if she had a mind to try it; and, if she would send an able attorney to him, he would direct him how to act, and give her all the assistance in his power. She accordingly applied to an attorney; said no money should be wanting; and he promised to see Mr. Dunning, and to let her know the result.

In the evening, we went to the play; and Mr. Storer came into the box, and sat by us the whole evening. What was the cause I know not, but she was not so attentive to him as she used to be;

be ; left the house before the entertainment began ; and, when he handed her to the carriage, and would have accompanied her home, she pleaded an engagement, and parted with him. Going home, she told me she would have staid the entertainment ; but, finding the people of fashion noticing Mr. Storer, she thought it better to retire. On our return home, we found Baron Diede, the Danish ambassador, had called. This gentleman, among others, though I have not named him before, was one of Mrs. Baddeley's admirers. She received a letter this evening from Mr. Gill, saying, he was impatient to hear of her suing for a divorce, as he should be frantic till it was obtained. " Now,"

faid ſhe, “ I hate all mankind; for I
“ look round, and round, and find no
“ face like his.”

Next morning her attorney waited on
her; ſaid he had ſeen Mr. Dunning;
that there was a probability of ſucceſs
in the attempt, but he could not ſay
more to *her* on the occaſion. She then
left the room; and he told me, that
Mr. Dunning was of opinion, as Mrs.
Baddeley was ſo well known to have
committed adultery herſelf, the Court
would not take that notice of her
complaint, ſo as to avail her in ſuch
a manner as to diſſolve her marriage;
but, ſhould they not take her conduct
into conſideration, ſhe would ſucceed;
“ there-

“therefore,” said he, “it depends on
“chance. So that, if Mrs. Baddeley
“makes the attempt, and her plea falls
“to the ground, she must not blame
“me.” I promised to consult her; and
he was to call again the next day.

Baron Diede now called again: he
was a polite little man: we saw him;
and, as he had some friends to dine with
him next day, he hoped we would do
him the honour to be of the party. We
accepted the invitation, and he left us.

Not recollecting this gentleman, she
told me we had frequently met him at
houses where we dined, and he had been
at our house more than once. “He has

“ frequently been at our lodgings,” said she, “ when I lived with Mr. Hanger ;
“ and he came once here when Mr.
“ Thurlow was with us, now Lord
“ Chancellor.” “ I recollect it now,” said I, “ well.” “ Yes,” replied she,
“ and you must recollect that Mr.
“ Thurlow was with us an hour and a
“ half, and in all that time did not ex-
“ change twenty words. He was cried
“ up as a sensible man ; but I could
“ only judge of his sense by his silence :
“ and he could not be a great admirer
“ of the ladies.” “ Remember,” said I, “ a close mouth makes a wise head.
“ Besides, being introduced by Mr.
“ Hanger to his favourite lady, it would
“ have been forward and impertinent in
“ him

“ him to have engrossed the conversa-
 “ tion, or have made his friend uneasy
 “ by any studied attention to *you*; and
 “ I wish men of rank would all follow
 “ his example; there would not be then
 “ so many trifling and treacherous cha-
 “ racters.”

Mrs. Baddeley was now applied to
 by a man who had formerly been her
 servant, to procure him a protection
 from arrest, from some one of the Am-
 bassadors. Wishing always to serve the
 unfortunate, she cried out, “ There is
 “ old Count Haslang will do it for me,”
 (who was the Bavarian Minister,) “ if
 “ I ask him; for he is full of his com-
 “ pliments to me at all public places.
 “ I will write a line to him.” I encour-
 aged

raged her to this; and she gave the man a letter to take to him. He presently returned, and said, the Count sent for him up, and told him he would, with pleasure, comply with Mrs. Baddeley's request, and he might call for it the next day; and, "Pray, friend," said he, "make my compliments to her, and tell her I will wait on her as soon as possible." "Nay," said the poor man, half wild with joy, "he will be here, I suppose, in a few minutes; for his chariot and three footmen were waiting at the door. In hopes of being here before him," said he, "I ran over an old woman in Bondstreet, and threw down her barrow of fruit in the street. She cried out, 'Stop thief! stop thief!' and I have
" been

“been pursued to your very door.”
 We could not help laughing at the incident, but sent our servant to find the woman, and gave her a couple of shillings to make her amends. She abused the poor man much; but our servant saying he was running for a midwife, and had sent that money to make good her loss, from curses she proceeded to blessings; and he who was, in her opinion, a few minutes before, the vilest dog, was now the best of men: so great a change in our way of thinking will a little money, seasonably given, occasion.

Whilst we were in conversation with this man, Count Haslang's carriage stopped at the door. He came in, and brought

brought the protection with him; for, as he protected so many, I believe he kept them ready written; and it required only to fill up the blanks to serve particular purposes. It must have been so; for he was with us almost as soon as the man. Presenting the paper to Mrs. Baddeley, he told her he was happy it was in his power to oblige her, and he blessed the occasion that gave him an opportunity of paying his respects to her; for he long wished to say how much she was in his esteem. She going to take her cat from the sofa, that the Count might not sit down on it, he took her by the hand, and begged the favour of a salute, which she a little angrily refused; and, in order to get her
hand

hand from him, gave it a sudden jerk, by which the Baron lost his equilibrium, and, his foot being entangled in the train of her sacque, fell all along upon the floor, crying out he had hurt his back. I was ready to sink with laughing: Mrs. Baddeley ran out of the parlour; and I was doing all in my power to get the old gentleman up. She returned, and said she had been to fetch her man to assist him; but she had, in fact, been out of the room to laugh. As neither of us had strength to lift him up, and he was unable to rise of himself, we were obliged to call the maids. We at last got him into a chair, apologizing for the accident, and hoped he was not hurt. He said, a little on his back. We called
for

for some rum to bathe it; but he declined our good offices, and said he would go home, and send for his doctor, and he had no doubt he should soon get well; when he would do himself the honour of paying us a second visit. He then hobbled to his carriage, and ordered himself to be driven gently home. When he was gone, we fell into such an immoderate fit of laughter, at the accident of the Baron, and his newly-protected servant, whose hands and clothes were besmeared with dirt by his fall with the old woman, that our maids laughed as heartily as we did. The girls declared the Count had stays on; of course was more frightened than hurt. When the poor man had washed off the
dirt

dirt, we sent for him up, and gave him his protection, which he received with gratitude, and a look of heart-felt ease, that smoothed a brow, furrowed before with anxiety. "I will now," said he, "go and show my face at home, which I have not been able to do, in a week-day, for some time." "But, don't run," said I, "as you did here; for, if you do more mischief in your way, you will get into jail in spite of your protection."

We sent some time after to Count Haslang's, to inquire how he did, and found he was gone to bed. He returned his kind compliments, and said he was

poorly. The favour, however, Mrs. Baddeley asked of him, did not end here; for, as soon as he was able to go abroad, though we were constantly denied to him, he was with us every day for a month together. We now received the following letter from Lord Melbourne.

“ My Love,

“ I fear I cannot see you to-
“ night. I am just come to town, to
“ attend Lady Melbourne to her fa-
“ ther, who is come to town not well,
“ and I fear it will make it *two* late to
“ be able to call on my dear love: if
“ I do

“ I do not, I will be with you to-mor-
“ row, if I can, before you are up.

“ Your’s ever,

“ Melbourne.”

“ *To Mrs. Baddeley.*”

According to our engagement, we
dined with Baron Diede. The com-
pany consisted of all the Foreign Mini-
sters, and the late Lord Falmouth.
When we sat down to dinner, one of
the gentlemen inquired where Count
Haflang was, that he was not of the party.
The Baron replied, that he had that day
received a letter from him, saying, he
was confined to his bed, from a fall he
had received, and had so much hurt his
T 2 back,

back, that he could not turn himself. I dared not look at Mrs. Baddeley; certain, if I had, that we could not have avoided laughing. Lord Falmouth said he had seen him that morning, and he was very ill; and, on being asked how he met with the accident, replied, his foot slipped in getting into his chariot. The dinner was splendid and elegant, and a band of soft music, in the next room, playing the whole time. When dinner was over, we retired to the music; and Mrs. Baddeley sung many songs. Cards were then introduced; supper succeeded; and thus the evening closed. This meeting introduced Mrs. Baddeley to all the diplomatic body, who were afterwards our visitants, and

and very polite to her. As to Lord Falmouth, who was an admirer of the ladies, he was frequently at our house. In our way home, Mrs. Baddeley declared she had bitten her cheeks till they were sore, to prevent her from laughing. On our return, we found cards from many; from Sir Francis Molineux, and particularly the Duke of Manchester, the latter of whom was always ready to oblige Mrs. Baddeley in any thing she asked; and she frequently applied to him in behalf of her friends, who wanted assistance in different ways; for never in her life did she refuse a good office to those who solicited her, where it was in her power to do it. We sent daily to inquire how Count

Haflang did, and were unhappy to find this fall had confined him to his house near three weeks.

Lord Melbourne returned from the country, came to see his dear love, and staid two hours; said to me, he supposed I was a bankrupt; that he had no money about him, but would return in the evening and bring me some. We now took an airing into Hyde-Park, and there saw a pretty girl, well-dressed, sitting on the grass, near the ring. I bad Mrs. Baddeley take notice of her. She seemed to be about seventeen years of age, very unhappy, and to be the daughter of some reputable tradesman. "Let us go out," said Mrs. Baddeley,
"and

“and walk by her.” We did; and I asked her if she was ill. “Yes, ladies,” returned she, “I am very ill, and wish myself dead.” “For what reason?” said Mrs. Baddeley. She then burst into tears, and cried bitterly. We sat down on the grass by her, and begged she would tell us what made her unhappy, and we would be friends to her if we could; and she might assure herself, if her tale required secrecy, it should go no further. Our coach and servants were then at a distance. She told us her name was Harriet Brown; that she was the daughter of an eminent linen-draper, in the city; that her father had three servant-men, one of whom she unfortunately fell in love with; that
he

he kept her company two years, in a virtuous way; “for I meant,” said she, “to marry him. This came to my father’s ears, and he got him pressed and sent to sea; and, on my saying I would follow him, if I knew where to find him, he, in a great passion, turned me out of his house. I was so unhappy at this, that I did not care what became of me. I have now been from my dear father three days, and nothing but water have I had; and this park has been my refuge. At night I get to that stable; and, that I may not be seen there, I am out before day-break. I am so wretched, that I have thought several times of putting an end to my life;”
“but

“but something forbid it.” At the recital of this story, our hearts yearned for her; and we told her, if she would go home with us, we would undertake to set all things to rights again. She replied, “Oh, no, dear ladies, I am
“only fit to wander life away in some
“desert; for to me it is not worth the
“holding.” We determined, however, to take her home with us, give her some refreshment, put her into a comfortable bed, and not leave her till we could see her father; and, if he would not receive her, endeavour to do something for her; and this we promised upon our words and honour: she therefore agreed to go with us: the coach was called, and we got in. She was very
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was

was a passionate man, and would probably affront me. I told her, I should not mind that, provided I could bring about a reconciliation; but that I persuaded myself he would be happy to see me, for the relief I should bring him, in telling him she was safe.

END OF THE THIRD VOLUME.



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Steele, Elizabeth

The Memoirs Of Mrs. Sophia Baddeley, Late Of Drury-Lane Theatre In Six
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